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Editorial

The basic and most important unit of the society has been the family from the beginning. For the empowerment and development of the country, first of all it is necessary to pay attention to the moral, social, economic and cultural dimensions of basic institutions like family. Balanced development of the family is very important for the development of the society. Therefore, if we want to have a complete and balanced development of the country, then we need to lay maximum emphasis on the basic institution called family. It is necessary that we should not make any discrimination between son and daughter in the family and we must explain this to our sons and get them involved in their activities. Even today, those who belong to the old belief believe that a woman cannot get any freedom, she cannot go anywhere alone, she cannot roam anywhere alone, but today's youth refuse to accept these values.

Some people also say that the importance of the walls in the house, the same importance is given to the education of the boys in the society. But how is a house made? Who are in the base of the house? The base of the house is our daughters, our girls, that means they are related to the roots. If our root becomes weak in the society, then our house or house cannot be strong at all. There is a need to understand this social context in reality.

The extent of favoritism is reached when we see discrimination in small tasks. Some people think that a girl is someone else's wealth, what job she should do. That's why some parents discriminate between boys and girls and this discrimination is visible somewhere in our behavior, in feeding and dressing. This is sheer injustice. God has given the same brain to boys and girls and today girls are proving it by bringing better results.

Girls stay at their parents' house for only a few days, so it is our duty to pay deep attention to their education, upbringing, only then we can fulfill the concept of a strong society. God has made us the trustee of our children so it is our duty to treat all members equally with full justice because both boys and girls have same power, same soul. So we should give them equal opportunities for development.

The basic objective of women empowerment is the development of women and communication of self-confidence in them. Women empowerment is important for the overall development of the society. Empowerment of women is the most important social phenomenon because they are the creators. If you empower them, make them strong, encourage them, it is better for the society. Women and men are the basis of creation and human society. Both complement each other. These are the wheels of the chariot of life by which the journey of life runs

smoothly. The role of both has been equally important for stability in family and society. The basis of change and development in a society depends on the mutual interaction of men and women, walking step by step and equal mobility of both. A chaotic situation is created in social life when any one side lags behind. The history of mankind is witness to this that where women have been neglected, the development of the society has been stunted. The role of women in creation of creation, education of children, upbringing of family is much more important than that of men, thus her position becomes central in the society. Therefore, without the progress of women, there can be no upliftment of mankind and society. As far as India is concerned "Yatra Naryastu Pujayante Ramante Tatra Devta" means where women are worshipped. The deities reside there. With this ideal any Indian woman can feel pride in comparison to the western woman. The ideal of learning in Saraswati, the ideal of wealth in Lakshmi, the ideal of valor in Durga, the ideal of purity in Ganga, even the ideal of creation in the form of Jagad Janani we find only in India.



Professor Akhilesh Shukla
Chief Editor

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Minaxi Masukhbhai Patel

Rock Art of Keraha: A Critical Study

• Neha Singh

•• Pritam Kumar

••• Mahesh Chandra Srivastava

Abstract- *Rock art can be defined as a human made markings placed on natural stone or any creativity on the rock like paintings on rocks and tools which are made from rocks by primitive people . The study of rock art is considered as the most important element to know about the prehistoric human because in the absence of any literary sources it is the only source through which we can get some information about the early humans. These art works are often classified into different forms such as Pictograph(drawings or paintings), Petroglyphs(carvings or inscriptions), Engravings(incised motifs), Petroforms(rocks laid out in pattern) and Geoglyphs (ground drawings).The rock art of India includes relief carving, engraving and paintings. Rock art sites have been reported from different geophysical zones of India and the largest concentration of rock art is documented in the central India specifically in the state of Madhya Pradesh reported from Bhimbetka, Daraki - Chattan, Indragarh, Rewa etc. Keraha is one of the most important site of rock art situated in Rewa district of Madhya Pradesh.*

Keywords- Rock art, Human made, Creativity, Information

Geographical Introduction of Keraha- Keraha is a small village situated in Rewa district. Rewa lies between 24°53' north latitudes and 81° 3' east longitudes. The site of Keraha is situated at the distance of 30km from Rewa at the Rewa-Siddhi road at the top of Argara hill which is 3 km away from the village named Keraha, in the series of Kaimur mountain range. To reach the rock art site of Keraha people have to follow the path which goes beside the school fig(I) in Keraha and has to continue to that path about 2 km and then they have to climb on the left side of mountain area . The people of this village referred these shelters as “**Baba ka Pathara**”, “**Pahari Baba**”, “**Baba ka Chur**” etc. The local villagers believes that these shelters were the place of mediation of great ancient saint and the figures or paintings on rocks were made by them with their blood. They relate this paintings with magic and superstitions.

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Fig I

Components of Rock Art of Keraha

(A) Shelters- Rock shelters can be defined as a natural shelter between or understanding rocks in which the debries and campfires of prehistoric peoples are found. The shelters are generally located on the steep side of hillocks, overlooking the deep valley on the bank of deep canyon or george .There are all together 5 shelters in Keraha and among them 2 shelters are painted. Both the painted shelters are side by side and faces in same direction (fig- ii). Painted shelters are located at the place which have access to some source of water , commanding view of entire area , difficult for wild animals to reach and availability of plenty of raw material for making tool and wild fauna . In the vicinity of both the shelters plenty of tools had been founded scattered on the surface or just below the top soil.

Rock shelter is considered as most important component of rock art because it is the place where primitive people reside and protect themselves from cold, heat, rain, wild animals and other problems . The primitive people who were living in the rock shelters of Keraha had capability to think logically and also had ability to make their life easy as they selected only those rock shelter for habitation which had access to daily needs like water, protection etc. Paintings of both the shelter indicates the habitation of primitive people on both the shelters. Some tools are also founded from the surface of the shelters and around the shelters.

Shape and size of shelter

Painted Shelter- SHELTER No.1 is 6 m10 cm long, 4 m 3 cm high, 3 m wide and semi oval in shape. The face of shelter is in south east direction. SHELTER No.2 is 8 m 2 cm long, 10 m 2cm high and 5 m1cm wide and contrasting stemmed in shape. The face of shelter is in south east direction.

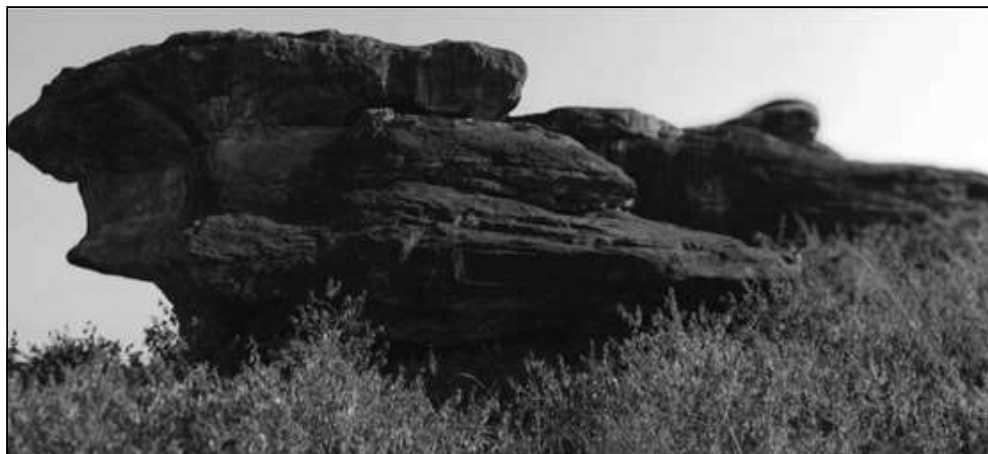


Fig II

Non Painted Shelter

SHELTER No.3 is 9 m 2 cm long, 7 m 1 cm high and 5 m 7 cm wide and crescent in shape. The face of shelter is in south east direction. SHELTER No.4 is 5 m 8 cm long, 6 m 2 cm high, 4 m wide and semi circular in shape. The face of shelter is in north east direction. SHELTER No.5 is 7 m 9 cm long, 8 m 4 cm high and 5 m 4 cm wide and crescent in shape. The face of shelter is in North West direction.

(B) Rock Paintings

Rock painting can be simply defined as a paintings on rock (as a cave wall, cliff, or boulder) made by primitive peoples. It is largely synonymous with parietal art. The paintings of Keraha rock shelter is red in colour as they are painted with haematite (pigment) or geru and this colour may change due to chemical aging process which means that the colour which we are seeing today might not have been same when they are painted. There are more than 35 paintings in shelter no.1 and about 52 paintings in shelter no.2.

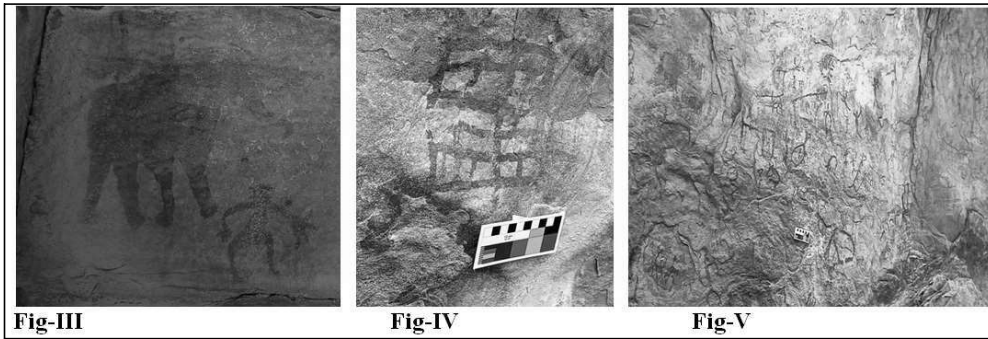
The rock paintings of the both the shelters includes the paintings of animals (fig-iii), symbols (fig-iv), human (fig-v), etc.

Paintings of shelter no.1

On the canvas of shelter no.1 there is a paintings of bird, deer, human, elephant, arrow and some symbols. The paintings are in scattered pattern.

Paintings of shelter no.2

On the canvas of shelter no.2 there are the paintings of fish, tiger, deer, elephant, human in groups, solo figure of human, bow and arrow, elephant, buffalo, ox, birds, symbols etc.



Location of Paintings- Within a shelter, the paintings are usually executed on the walls (fig-vi). In shelter no. 1 and 2 very artistic paintings of animals, humans, reptiles, birds and weapons had been executed. The canvas of the shelter is full of paintings from top to bottom. On the walls and ceilings paintings are placed in horizontal pattern. There are two paintings painted in floor (fig-vii) outside the shelter.

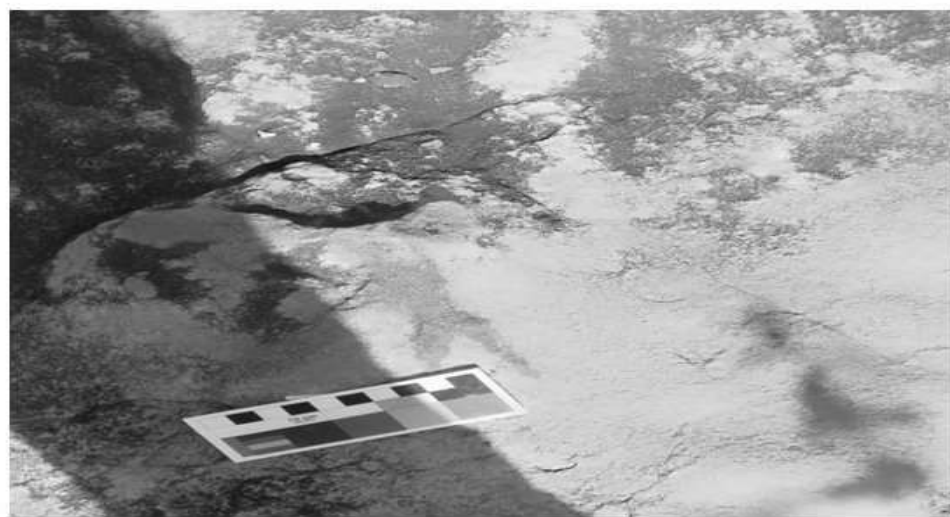
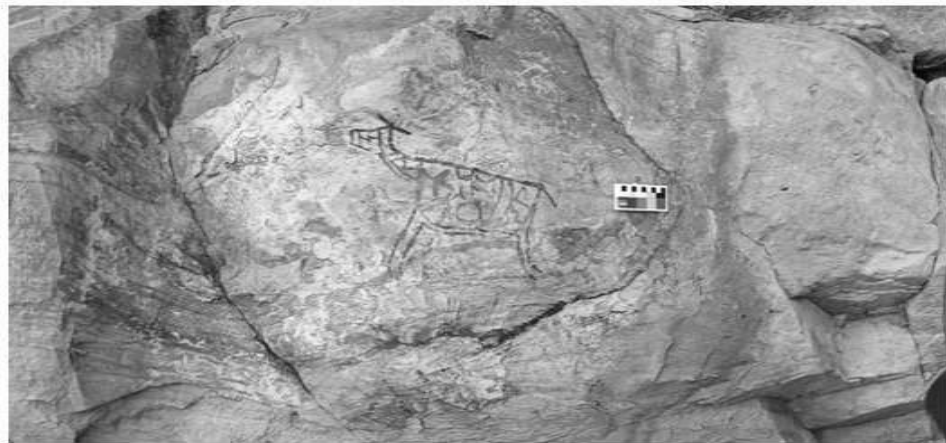




Fig-VIII

Significance of rock art of Keraha- Rock art of Keraha provides us information about the life of early humans and the way of their living in the absence of any literary record. The oldest drawings are more naturalistic or realistic and elegant and the later ones are more representational. Nearly all the drawings of animals and humans are shown in motion.

The primitive people who were living in the rock shelters of Keraha had capability to think logically and also had ability to make their life easy as they selected only those rock shelter for habitation which had access to daily needs like water, protection etc.

The rock paintings of Keraha throws light on the cultural and social aspect of primitive people. There is a hunting scene in which man is hunting deer using spherds. The largest number of human representation is in hunting scenes. They are depicted solo or in group with bow and arrows, spears or harpoons. Group hunting was definitely a social event in which a large number of people participated. Generally big animals were hunted by a large group of person but small animal like deer is hunted by individual.

It seems that elephant was the domestic animal of early humans as there is a painting of elephant and human together. They might be using elephant for travelling from the one place to another or riding purpose in the form of transport or it might be hunted by the people for its skin, flesh or bones. There are images of humans in group which indicates that there is a feeling of socialism and cooperation among primitive people and solo figures indicates that they are also capable in dealing with the life alone. There are paintings of many symbols like claw, semicircle etc. Paintings of fish and deer indicate that early man used to hunt them for their food. In order to hunt animals they made various tools like bow and arrow, spears, swords etc to hunt or kill animals and blades to tear the flesh and cut vegetables, fruits and all edible items. They also make tools from rock or animals bones in order to protect their life from animals. Sometimes they use to cover their body from the flesh of animal in order to protect themselves from cold, rain etc.

Thus on the basis of rock art it can be said that rocks are the most precious gift which we had got through nature as rocks served as a solid platforms to primitive people in order to represent their feeling, emotions, activities in the absence of paper, pen, or any other sources. The styles of rock paintings of Keraha range from naturalistic to very symbolic or abstract. The early humans depict their ways of living through paintings and

they make their life easy by making tools and using it and critical study of rock art will help us to understand the cognitive development of early humans and the way of their living.

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