

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| <i>Chapter Title</i> | Page No. |
|--|-----------------|
| Acknowledgement | I |
| Table of Contents | VII |
| List of Table | XII |
| List of Graphs | XIII |
| List of Figures | XIV |
| Synopsis | XXII |
| | |
| Introduction | 1-18 |
| 0.1 Metals and cultural development of humankind | 02 |
| 0.2 Defining ‘Early Iron Age’ and its different zones | 05 |
| 0.2.1 Different Zones of Early Iron Age in the Indian Sub-continent | 05 |
| 0.3 Debates Regarding The Role of Iron Technology in Urbanization | 12 |
| 0.4 Defining Megalithic Culture | 13 |
| 0.4.1 Importance of the Present Study | 15 |
| 0.5 The Socio-Cultural Processes Within a Society | 17 |
| 0.6 Limitations of the Present Study | 18 |
| | |
| CHAPTER – 1 : THE STUDY AREA AND ITS CULTURAL FACETS | 19-59 |
| 1.1 Geographical, Legendary and Literary Background | 19 |
| 1.2 Archaeological Background | 22 |
| 1.2.1 Lower Paleolithic Evidence | 23 |
| 1.2.2 Middle Paleolithic Evidence | 23 |
| 1.2.3 Upper Paleolithic Evidence | 24 |
| 1.2.4 Mesolithic Culture | 25 |

| | | |
|---|--|--------------|
| 1.2.5 | Neolithic Culture | 25 |
| 1.2.6 | Chalcolithic Culture | 25 |
| 1.2.7 | Vidarbha During the Early Historic Period | 26 |
| 1.2.9 | Vidarbha Under Colonial Rule | 29 |
| 1.3 | Physiographic and Environmental Setting | 30 |
| 1.3.1 | Geological Settings | 30 |
| 1.3.2 | Drainage Pattern | 30 |
| 1.3.3 | Topographical Features of Vidarbha | 31 |
| 1.3.4 | Soil Formations in Vidarbha Region | 31 |
| 1.3.5 | Mineral Deposits In Vidarbha | 32 |
| 1.4 | Early Iron Age Megalithic Culture | 37 |
| 1.4.1 | Dhamna Linga (Long. $78^{\circ}51'E$, Lat. $21^{\circ}8.30'N$) | 37 |
| 1.4.2 | Dhavalameti (Long. $78^{\circ}51'E$, Lat. $21^{\circ}9.55'N$) | 40 |
| 1.4.3 | Vyahad (Long. $78^{\circ}53'E$, Lat. $21^{\circ}7'30''N$) | 43 |
| 1.4.4 | Mahurjhari (Long. $79^{\circ}30'E$; Lat. $21^{\circ}14'N$) | 46 |
| 1.4.5 | Takalghat-Khapa (Long $78^{\circ}56'30''E$, Lat. $20^{\circ}54'40''N$) ... | 48 |
| 1.4.6 | Khairwada (Long $78^{\circ}29'E$ Lat $21^{\circ}1'N$) | 50 |
| 1.4.7 | Bhagimohari (Long. $78^{\circ}51'E$, Lat. $21^{\circ}24'N$) | 51 |
| 1.4.8 | Borgaon (Long. $78^{\circ}55'E$, Lat. $21^{\circ}20'N$) | 53 |
| 1.4.9 | Naikund (Long. $79^{\circ}10'E$, Lat. $21^{\circ}20'N$) | 54 |
| 1.4.10 | Raipur Hingna (Long. $78^{\circ}58'E$, Lat. $21^{\circ}43'N$) | 56 |
| 1.4.11 | Junapani (Long $79^{\circ}0'6.03E$ Lat. $21^{\circ}11'58.30N$) | 57 |
| CHAPTER – II : UNDERSTANDING IRON TECHNOLOGY | | 60-75 |
| 2.1 | Importance of Iron to Human Evolution | 60 |
| 2.2 | Iron Ore Formations | 61 |
| 2.3 | Why is Iron an important metal? | 63 |

| | | |
|--|---|----------------|
| 2.3.1 | Properties of Iron | 63 |
| 2.3.2 | Methods of Testing | 64 |
| 2.3.3 | Understanding of Iron–Carbon Equilibrium Diagram | 66 |
| 2.3.4 | Microstructures and their Properties | 68 |
| 2.4 | Methods of Manufacturing Iron | 70 |
| 2.4.1 | Ore dressing | 71 |
| 2.4.2 | Smelting | 71 |
| 2.4.3 | Smithery Techniques | 72 |
| 2.5 | Importance of Microstructure Interpretation in the Field of Archaeo-Metallurgy | 75 |
| CHAPTER – III : MATERIALS AND METHODS | | 76-106 |
| Introduction | | 76 |
| 3.1 | Iron Artefact Assemblage | 77 |
| 3.1.1 | Utilitarian Artefacts | 79 |
| 3.1.2 | Ritualistic Artefacts | 89 |
| 3.2 | Methods of Study | 89 |
| 3.2.1 | Typological and Functional Analysis | 90 |
| 3.2.2 | Quantification and Statistical Analysis | 90 |
| 3.2.3 | Sampling | 91 |
| 3.2.4 | Chemical Analysis | 92 |
| 3.2.5 | Metallographic Analysis | 95 |
| 3.2.6 | Ethnographic Survey | 105 |
| 3.2.7 | Experimental Approach | 106 |
| CHAPTER – IV : RESULTS AND DISCUSSION | | 107-273 |
| Introduction | | 107 |
| 4.1 | Typological Analysis | 107 |

| | | |
|------------|--|------------|
| 4.1.1 | Taxonomic Classification | 107 |
| 4.1.1A | Adze/ Rapi | 107 |
| 4.1.1B | Arrowhead | 108 |
| 4.1.1C | Axe | 108 |
| 4.1.1D | Bangle | 109 |
| 4.1.1E | Bevelled Point | 109 |
| 4.1.1F | Borer | 109 |
| 4.1.1G | Chisel and Chisel Point | 109 |
| 4.1.1H | Dagger | 110 |
| 4.1.1I | Digging Tool | 110 |
| 4.1.1J | Drill Point | 110 |
| 4.1.1K | Engraver | 110 |
| 4.1.1L | Fish Hook | 110 |
| 4.1.1M | Hoe | 111 |
| 4.1.1N | Horse Bit | 111 |
| 4.1.1O | Knife | 112 |
| 4.1.1P | Ladle | 112 |
| 4.1.1Q | Lamp Stand | 113 |
| 4.1.1R | Nail Parer | 113 |
| 4.1.1S | Pan | 113 |
| 4.1.1T | Ring | 113 |
| 4.1.1U | Rivet | 114 |
| 4.1.1V | Sickle | 114 |
| 4.1.1W | Spear/ Spearhead | 114 |
| 4.1.1X | Spike | 115 |
| 4.1.1Y | Wire | 115 |
| 4.2 | Distribution of Artefacts | 135 |

| | |
|--|----------------|
| 4.3 Statistical Analysis of Artefactual Assemblage | 141 |
| 4.3.1 Adze | 141 |
| 4.3.2 Axe | 145 |
| 4.3.3 Chisel | 150 |
| 4.3.4 Nail Parer | 154 |
| 4.4 Metallographic and Chemical Analysis | 156 |
| 4.4.1 Evidences of Steeling | 191 |
| 4.4.2 Failed Attempts at Steel Technique | 193 |
| 4.4.3 Evidences of Cast Iron | 193 |
| 4.4.4 Evidence of Wrought Iron | 194 |
| 4.4.5 Evidence of utilization of pure iron | 195 |
| 4.4.6 Samples with Unclear Microstructures | 195 |
| 4.4.7 Metallographic Analysis of Experimental Samples | 213 |
| 4.5 Compositional Analysis | 226 |
| 4.6 Ethnographic Survey | 231 |
| 4.6.1 Contemporary Traditional Iron Blacksmith | 231 |
| 4.6.2 Living Megalithic Traditions | 253 |
| Chapter – V : CONCLUSION | 274-282 |
| 5.1 Relevance of the work | 274 |
| 5.2 Concluding Remarks from the Typological Analysis | 275 |
| 5.3 Concluding Remarks on the Metallurgical and Technical Know-how of the Megalithic People Based on the Metallographic and Chemical Analysis of the Iron Artefacts | 277 |
| 5.4 Discussion on the Probable Socio-cultural System of the Vidarbhan Megalithic Society Based on the Inferences Drawn From Contemporary Gadchiroli Megalithic Society and the Lohar Community Residing in Vidarbha | 278 |
| REFERENCES | 283-298 |