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## **SYNOPSIS**

The various Burial ceremonies have always played a vital role in completing the human mortal life cycle, incorporating numerous methods or styles of burial and its association. Urn burial or pot burial is one of the spheres in which Archeologists in Manipur have worked on for decades.

Urn burial sites like Sekta (Imphal District) , Khangabok (Thoubal District), Khamaran (Imphal District), Koutruk (Imphal District), Andro Khuman (Imphal District), Tentha , Oinam (Senapati District), Oaklou Loukol Keinou Ayokpa (Bishenpur District), etc are among the few sites excavated by the state Archaeology Department of Manipur. Of these sites mentioned above only the first five have been selected for the research program.

The associated mortuary finds consisting of various metal ornaments and implements, and especially the pottery assemblage lead us to further dimension relating to these urn burial sites.

The aims or objectives of the research are as follows:

- The main aim is to limelight the various morphological attributes.
- Measurement and Technological analysis of the pottery are of another concern of the research.
- A collective comparison and correlation of the pottery assemblage and its mortuary goods of the five urn burial sites.
- To conduct an ethnographical study to understand the pottery and its process of manufacturing technique and designs in Manipur.
- To shed some light on the practices of Burial rituals in Manipur.
- To review and reanalysis the cultural resources.

The chapterization frame is as follows:

### **CHAPTER I: INTRODUCTION**

This chapter will be a guideline for the research premise which incorporates the core issues such as introduction to the topic and its association, dividing the chapter into two: the genesis of pottery and the burial customs in Manipur.

## CHAPTER II: METHODOLOGY

Methodology will comprise the literary reference, locating materials, exploration and the lab works which are adopted for the outcome of the study.

## CHAPTER III: ENVIRONMENT, ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL SETTING

This chapter deals with the environmental conditions, the archaeological and historical setting, for better understanding of the region undertaken for the research.

## CHAPTER IV: POTTERY ANALYSIS

The pottery analysis section will cover the pottery morphological attributes and its characteristics in individual perspective along with the manufacturing techniques and designs, site wise.

## CHAPTER V: ETHNOARCHAEOLOGY

This chapter encompasses the ethnographic study of the research undertaken for profound investigation of the pottery in terms of manufacturing techniques and designs in Manipur as parallelism can be drawn between the historic and the present existing pottery.

## CHAPTER VI: COMPARISON, CORRELATION AND CONCLUSION

This chapter will basically discuss the comparison, correlation and conclusion of the pottery assemblage and the burial customs of all the five sites. It will also include its problems and further scope of the research.

## STATEMENT – I

**(Statement showing the particulars, on which the work is based, the discovery of new facts and of new relationship between facts observed by others and how the work tends to help the general advancement of knowledge).**

The Urn burial customary has been observed in many cultures worldwide, but in Manipur it is an unavoidable burial custom during the 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> century A.D. And the existence of this trend is observed till today at Koutruk. The urn burial sites have been studied individually but not collectively and comparatively by correlating the pottery types at all the sites. The current analysis accompanied with the re-analysis shed few advancement of knowledge on the research.

1. Of the five urn burial sites, three sites bear preliminary excavation reports which are re-analyzed from different perspectives as per the research protocol.
2. The pottery assemblages of all the five sites are under different guides, scattered at various locations which is collectively studied.
3. Different customary trends followed at various sites, consists of charred or non charred bones buried in the urns.
4. Morphological classificatory system undertaken to trace the structural values of the pottery in all the five sites.
5. The morphological and techno-manufacturing assimilation of several pottery types found at the sites put forward, an interesting links.
6. The presence of similar designs on the mortuary pots as well as on the contemporary potters' arty list of designs, led to it examination.
7. The existence of large number of non diagnostic thin sherds which has been identified as the large pots used in "the internment system" of urn burial. The rim portions are removed in order to intern the smaller pots.
8. Study of the pottery assemblage of Khuman Andro urn burial site shed light on the existence of perforated vessel type with intricate incised designs and other various important structural, measurement and manufacturing technique.

9. Disclosure of pots with perforation at the base at Koutruk is worth mentioning.
10. Manufacturing techniques and style on the hookahs from Khangabok, assembled at the State Museum resembles that of Ningthancha Kharong, a contemporary small scale pottery production site.
11. Presence of intrusive pottery type marks trade links.
12. The construction of pottery involves “Combined technique” such as hand made such as free hand moulding, piece building (coil, strip, slab), turn-table technique and wheel made.
13. Trace of the “Combined Technique” in a single vessel type is also found.
14. Ethnographic study at Ningthancha Kharong, Chairel and Thongjao enhanced knowledge regarding the manufacturing techniques and styles and its continuity.
15. For the first time, the universal reference unit such as sandpapers as medium of sorting and Munshall chart for colours were utilized.

## STATEMENT – II

**(Statement showing the sources of information, the extent to which the thesis is based on the works of others and the original portion of the thesis).**

The research is based on the material culture housed at various Museums like the State Archaeology Department, the State Museum, Excavators' collections/Museums at the Department of History and Museology of the Manipur University. Reviews of the scriptural reference consisting of excavation reports, unpublished articles and various thesis. Private interviews with all the Excavators and their insight informations on their experience were also conducted.

The original work of the research consists of the result of the pottery classificatory system based on measurement and morphological attributes, comparison and correlation of the pottery from the five sites, ethnographic study of three excising pottery workshop sites, use of Munshall chart and sandpaper for colour and texture respectively.

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