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RESEARCH ARTICLE

REWRITING HISTORY THROUGH INTERPRETING MUSEUM ARTIFACTS IN TAMIL NADU

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Abstract

The Museums are filled with artifacts, which collected from excavation and exploration methods. These objects reflected the life and livelihood of the people who inhabited in these lands from archaic period to modern period. Specially, the museum collection comprises the goods helps to know about the cultural history. History is written to analyzing the records of inscriptions, copper plates, coins and Archival materials. But the researches are neglecting the records which exist in the museum. Perhaps, the Museums are possessed highly valuable material ever, but the tourist sees museums as property or treasure. The Researchers not involved to the work of writing history. The Archaeological researchers also focused to identifying the treasures of the ancient, not involving to utilize these records to interpretations. This article deals with the new approach might be needed to canalizing records to writing history of Tamil Nadu, with involving interpretations of Museum objects.

Keywords: Museum objects, Excavation and Exploration, Cultural history, archaic period analyzing the records of inscriptions, copper plates, coins and Archival materials. But the researches are neglecting the records which exist in the museum.

Introduction

The museums are the portrait for the ancient Tamil Nadu, visualizing lively to the visitors. The material culture of the historical period and the pre historic period are available in the Museums of Tamil Nadu. ¹These antiquities exhibited the story of the life and livelihood of the people, including sculptures, architecture, paintings and coins. It gives the information regarding the social life of the people in Tamil Nadu from Archaic period. History is written to

Perhaps, the Museums are possessed highly valuable material ever, but the tourist sees museums as property or treasure. The Researchers not involved to the work of writing history. The Archaeological researchers also focused to identifying the treasures of the ancient, not involving to utilize these records to interpretations. Museum objects drawing attention of visitors to knowing history, in the public engagement in the society² This article deals with the new approach might be needed to canalizing records to

182

writing history of Tamil Nadu, with involving interpretations of Museum objects.

Museum in Tamil Nadu

Tamil Nadu has the enormous cultural objects in the museum which collected from the excavation and explorations. There are 23 district Government museums functioning by the Government namely Salem, Tiruchirappalli, Madurai, Pudukottai, Erode, Vellore, Nilgris, Cuddalore, Kanniyakumari, Coimbatore, Tirunelveli, Krishnagiri, Thiruvallur, Sivagangai, Palani, Thirvarur, Kancheepuram, Nagapattinam, Ramanathapuram, Virudhunagar, Karur, Tiruvannamalai, and Ariyalur.³ These museums are establishing for an objective to collect the documents, preserve the same, and displays to educate the people have cultural and historical heritage.

Prehistoric antiquities

The Madras Museum has the lot of bricks collection which collected by Cardew, Rea and others, the renowned archaeologist from British period. In addition, it constitutes the earliest of the museum collections collected from excavation made by R.B.Foote. Perhaps, the Madras Museum had the largest antiquities collection from South India. The Paleolithic of South India is said to be roughly 12500 to 5,00,000 years old. Indeed, the Quartzite was the stone most commonly used in South India, revealed by the Museum antiquities.⁴ In Tamil Nadu, the availability of the textbooks or research books, or research articles regarding prehistoric antiquities very meager. In addition, the pre historic antiquities are analyzed by the the contemporary excavators while the excavation, and defined the theory for the same. . Indeed, the Madras hand axe only collected from Pallavaram near Chennai belongs to two lakh year old revealed by V.D.Banerjee, Archeologist of India.⁵

Now there are lot of pre historic evidences are collected from the excavations sites and displayed the museums all over Tamil Nadu. This could be given the new theory for the history of Tamil Nadu

Rewriting Tamil Nadu History

The History of Tamil Nadu has begun from 3rd century B.C., which known as Sangam Age. Because the sources are depicted the history with historical and archaeological evidences. The text books and secondary sources tells that the Tamil Nadu history belongs to 3rd century B.C. The Porundhal site artifacts given the clue about the history reached beyond 3rd century B.C and reached upto 5th Century B.C. The museum has been established in Porundal, consisted the several artifacts found from the archaeological excavations from Sivakalai, Adichanallur and Sivakalai.⁶ The paddy has tested from the lab, Accelerator mass Spectrometry(AMS) by the Beta Analytic Lab , USA revealed a private gathering gorgansied by the Manarkeni Journal in Tamil.⁷

The porunthal graveyard archaeological sites has the writing system in India were in existence of 5th century B.C., indeed before the arrival of Asoka. The Phytoliths from four megalith cist burials from Porunthal, on the foot hills on the western ghats given authentication for understanding the landscape of rice cultivation, which beyond early historic time at 540-410 BCE.⁸ These excavational report still in the research paper, could not consider to rewrite the history of Tamil Nadu. However, these artifacts are preserved in the Museum of Porunai in Tirunelveli to exhibit for the people, learn about the one among the oldest civilization.

Sculpture

The system of sati was followed in the ancient period, considered as the social evil on modern period. Women who burnt himself on the funeral pyre of her husband, which depicted the sculpture in the Madras Museum sati stones. These kind of stone available in Tamil Nadu very rare, preserved in Madras Museum. The rewriting history of Tamil Nadu, to consider the evidence for writing women status in Tamil Nadu.⁹ The Museum possessed one of the richest collection of bronzes depicted the sculptural art of Tamil Nadu. Indeed, the research made by the researcher does not focus on the sculptural data in Tamil nadu. Perhaps, the sculptural data was analyzed in the thesis in one chapter.

Moreover, the sculptural data from Museum partially or completely ignore for the research. For the purpose of rewriting history, could utilize the sculptural data to change the history ever.¹⁰

Fossiles

Fossils are displayed in the museum of Ariyalaur and Museum of Government Arts College, shows that fossils of dinosaur, the egg shaped rocks were found in the village.¹¹ The dinosaur fossils are identified some of few palace in India. Among them fossil eggs are found in the Ariyalur region exhibited that the region are important place in India.¹² The historical writing could be focused to describe the inscriptional and archaeological sources in Tamil Nadu. However, the scientific evidence are not reviewed and compared with the other sources in Tamil Nadu. Indeed, the rewriting history could utilize the scientific tools and evidence could relate the history into high esteem.

Coins

In Tamil Nadu, all museums possessed the coins of Sangam Age, the Cholas, Vijyanagara period, Krishnadevaraya , Pudukottai Tondaiman coins, Tippusultan coins, Indo French coins, Maratha king coins, Shivaji coins, coins of Guptas, coin of Mughal Emperors and Pandya King coins. The Madras Museum has the rarest collection of Roman coins, could be one of the important museum ,indeed first musuem collected the coins of romans , catalogued for the historical witness.¹³ The coins are researched separately in the point of numesmetics, neglected in the historical perspective on the doctoral research and writing history. Indeed, lot of coins are preserved in the museums which only a object of the visitors, not for the research part.

Inscriptions

The inscriptions are carved in the hilly areas, mountains, the epigraphist, historians, traces stones, temple walls, independent historians collected and published the same. The excavations made all over Tamil Nadu by the Central and state government has

6. *Journal of Economic and Business Review*, Vol.6, June 2018, pp.59-61.

given great treasure to saved in the museums shed light in the Tamil culture, traditions, life style and art. The inscriptions depicted in the red and black ware has enormous inscriptional sources might help to know about the evolution of letters and language. However, the inscriptional sources of the museum could not mind in the researchers, indeed they only deal with the epigraphically sources already published by the Archaeological Survey of India.

Conclusion

History is the face of the every nation, exhibited the culture and tradition of the country over the years. The history has written by the historians to analyzing the primary records collected from the excavation and exploration, and the secondary sources already written by the others. But the historians never consul about the materials brought from the excavations stored in the museums. Museum objects only displayed for the common people, for seen enjoyment and excitement. The reality is the important materials have to forgotten and not to relate the evidence for writing hisoty. Hence, the rewriting history could be needed to analyzing the museum objects could change the history into deeper and sense.

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