

NAKSHALBARI COLLEGE

Department of History

Topic : **Socio- Economic life of Harappan
Civilisation**

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Socio-Economic life of Harappan Civilization

People

.The social life of the Indus Valley people was quite systematic and rich.

.The people of this civilization were peace-loving.

.The society was predominantly matriarchal.

.There were strong family organizations among the people.

Food

•Mainly supplied from cities, and rice was probably grown in the Indus valley.

•**Main Veg Food-** Vegetables such as peas, sesamoids and fruits like date palms.

•**other important foods-** wheat, barley, rice, milk, and others.

•**Non-veg Food-** beef, mutton, pork, poultry, fish etc.

Dress

.most common material used- cotton fabric, but wool was also used.

.Males wore shawls and modern dhoti and
Women wore traditional dhoti kurta or sarees.

Hair-style, ornaments

- Men wore long hair, parted in the middle and kept tidy at the back.
- The women wore long hair in plait with fan-shaped bow at the end.
- Fillets made of gold or silver were used to keep the hair in particular position.

House-hold articles and furniture

- They used earth and stone materials to make kitchen utensils, including vessels, dishes etc.
- There was a lack of defensive weapons like swords.
- They decorated their rooms using articles like chairs and tools, which made the rooms both pretty and comfortable.

Amusements

- Dicing was a favorite pastime.
- Clay modeling was general social amusements- children had the advantages of playing with animal shaped toys made of clay.
- Rich people had spacious courtyards.
- They used to spend time with their friends and families.

Animals

•**Domestic Animals**-bull, buffalo, sheep, elephant, pig and camel, dogs, cats.

•Formerly, it was believed that the Indus people did not tame horses as domestic animals. However, the bones and skeletons of horses have been found at Kalibangan and Sukanjodaro in the upper layers. Perhaps at a late stage of the Indus civilization horses were domesticated.

•**wild animals**- rhinoceros, tiger, and bison etc. were existed; confirmed by terracotta figures of these animals.

Trade and Commerce

Agricultural Trade

they used to cultivate many crops such as Barley, Wheat, Melon seeds and oil crops like Sesame, Mustard, and Dates. Cotton was also cultivated and was traded to make cloth out of it.

Article Trade

People used to make things from mud and clay. Unearthed ornaments and the accessories made out of Seashells, Pearls, and beads were also traded. T

Foreign Trade

They had traded with Iran and Afghanistan for Minerals, while Lead and Copper were exported from India through the rivers such as Sutlej, Ravi, and Indus.

Social Class and Social Structure

The three social classes were:

Rich merchants and priests e. the ruling class.

Small merchants, artisans and craftsmen.

Peasants and labourers.

Indus Religion

- . Along with male and female deities, the Indus people most likely worshipped **Mother Goddess**.
- . They worshipped a father God who was likely a founder of the race and a prototype of Siva as the **Lord of the Animals**.
- . They were familiar with some **type of yoga** and **meditation**.
- . They believed in some form of tree of life, portrayed on seals as a **Pipal or Acacia tree**, protected by a guardian spirit against an evil power signified by a tiger.
- . The **guardian spirit** is shown in seals as a bull, a serpent, a goat, a legendary creature, or an animal.
- . They worshipped fertility symbols like round stones and perforated stones, which predated the worship of **Siva and Parvathi** in the form **Sivalinga**.

Funerary Custom

More than two hundred bodies have been dug out at the excavated Harappan sites. The burials were **primarily conducted in large pits, sometimes oval or even rectangular. They were lined with mud bricks.** Sometimes they would contain a wooden coffin, evident only by the stains left on the sites after all these years.

The Indus Script

The Indus people used a **pictographic script**. Some 3500 specimens of this script survive in stamp seals carved in stone, in molded terracotta and faience amulets, in fragments of pottery, and in a few other categories of inscribed objects.

Thank You