

Mesolithic Age

Prepared by: Dhanya Ram Roy

- In 9000 B.C. began an intermediate stage in Stone Age Culture, which is called the 'Mesolithic Age'.
- It intervened as a transitional phase between the Paleolithic Age and the Neolithic Age.
- The Mesolithic period began at the end of the Pleistocene epoch, around 9000 B.C. and ended with the introduction of agriculture around 4000 to 3500 B.C.

- The Mesolithic People depended on hunting, fishing and food gathering; at a later stage they also domesticated animals and practised some sort of primitive agriculture.

Finding of Mesolithic Culture

- The first example of Mesolithic culture came from the Levant, an area roughly corresponding to the Middle East along the Mediterranean Sea.
- Here the Ice Age was ending by 20,000 BC and the climate was changing. It became warmer.
- The people living there had to change their lifestyles.
- They began constructing basic huts and started planting seeds from wild wheat and removed the weeds and started primitive agriculture.

Ceramic Mesolithic

- In North Eastern Europe, Siberia, and certain southern European and North African sites, a 'Ceramic Mesolithic' can be distinguished between 700-3850 BC.
- This potter making Mesolithic culture created a distinctive type of pottery, with point of knob base and flared rims.
- The earliest manifestation of this type may be in the region around Lake Baikal in Siberia.

Tools of Mesolithic People

- The tools of mesolithic era are smaller in size and bear in finishing than the Paleolithic age. These tools are called 'microliths'- one to five centrimetres in length made by blunting one or more sides with steep retouch.
- Microliths are usually made of flint of chert.
- The main tools are backed blades, obliquely truncated blades, point crescents, triangle and trapezes.
- Some microliths were used as components of spearheads, arrowheads, knives, sickles, harpoons and daggers.

Change in Life Style

- (A) Nomadism to Sedentary Settlement: The favourable climate, better rainfalls, warm atmosphere and increased food security led to reduction in nomadism to seasonally sedentary settlement.
- (B) Disposal of Dead: The sedentary settlement led beginning of the tradition of various ways of disposal of the dead. Four types of burials were prevalent- i) Extended burial, ii) Flexed burial, iii) Fractional burial, and iv) Double burial.
- © Emergence of Art: The Mesolithic man was a lover of arts.

THANK YOU