

Rock paintings of Tamia : Socio cultural life and it's importance

Pragya Baudh

PhD Scholar

History & Archaeology

B.R.Ambedkar University of Social Sciences MHOW Indore

Abstract

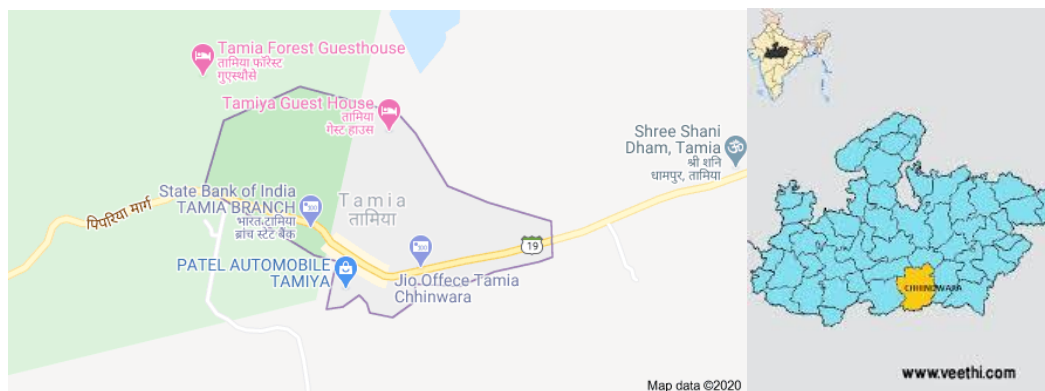
Rock paintings are the oldest artistic expression of human mind. Human being is known for its creative mind and other innovative and artistic skills. All over world prehistoric paintings can be seen in different places. India also has a great treasure of rock paintings. Bhimbetka has largest amount of painted wall rocks.¹ Rock walls were the canvas of that time. People enjoy to express their emotions in these paintings. Tamia has different socio cultural group and primitive tribe group also live in bhariya dhana .In this paper rock paintings of tamia socio cultural life and its importance will be elaborated.

Paper

Keywords: Tamia , rock painting, nature, history , social, archaeology

Introduction

Tamia is a less known beautiful hill station of Madhya Pradesh. It is situated in district chhindwara.¹ It's latitude is 22.3442°N , 78.6697°E It has dense forest which has rich flora and fauna. Place is so beautiful like we read in children story books. Tamia is a place which contains one of the oldest rock hills of the world. Tamia has connectivity with the road. You can reach their by bus. It is a beautiful tourism spot.



Tamia has a group of rocks where a piece of rock contain several paintings of earlier period . These caves have similar painting to bhimbetka . Local people call this hill laal pahadi because it has red rocks and red soil. If you want to study or want to see you have to trek the hill. From top of the hill their is picturesque view of sunrise and sunset. It is a adventurous journey from ground to top. Steps has been made so people can easily trek there. On left and right side of the steps large pieces of rocks can be seen For paintings spot it is difficult trekking , branches of trees help here. Lower part of the rock has a tree fossil so it is a archaeological and geological site both.

When classified it has some features which matches to Mesolithic and historical period.

Rock walls of tamia has different kind of paintings. Different motif has been made on the walls. A bird which look like modern red wattled lapwing has been painted here.

Tamia is situated in the heart of india Madhya Pradesh. It is situated in district chhindwara.Tamia is a small town but well connected with the road , town has some facilities like bank, local shops forest guest house, guest house and hotels.

Research Methodology

Field work has been done for the study . Observation , interview and group discussion has been used for data collection. Local guide and tribal people helped for trekking and identifying the site.

Observation

Observation of the site has been done for study . Tamia is a hill full of green lushy forest . It has oldest rocks of india which belongs to gondwana land. There is a forest guest house where is view point. You can watch a view of patalkot valley . It gives a view of dense forest. Small huts of bhariya tribal people can be seen here. Valley has a picturesque view. While observing the rocks if keenly observed it gives a direct indication that these hills somewhere has rock paintings because it has some similar rocks like bhimbetka rock shelters.

Interview

Interview has been done with people of tamia . Rajput, Srivastava and Bhariya people were part of the interview. Rajput family has main houses here .When you reach tamia you can find people who tells you that scholars and students come here for study so people tells you about guest house and local shops to eat food.

During interview they tells you that tamia is beautiful place but it's history is still unknown. It is beautiful and adventurous place but still not has so much importance like pachmadhi. So local people wants it to be a eco tourism hub. Patalkot valley has so many herbal plants which has medicinal properties. Students come here for picnic and adventurous journey. In winter different kind of picnic activities had been done here. Local guide tells you that there is a girl who is very courgeous . CM promoted her and send her to trek the Mt. everest. In rainy season the patalkot totally cut with the main town . Life is tough at that time.

Local guide helps you for information . When asking that is this place having any rock art. He says yes here is a rock art which is very old for tourism purpose it is just indicated that there is an ancient rock art . Some people goes there for morning walk and to visit the local hindu temple which is at the top of the hill. People call it laal pahadi because its soil colour is red.

Group discussion

During group discussion Srivastava family gives you a brief note on tamia , it's history culture and it's importance. Guide's mother was the first here who got job in aanganwadi. She tells you about bhariya people and patalkot valley. She says yes sure trek the laal pahadi many people goes there. Guide's wife said yes sometimes we goes there.

Their was a family which belongs to rajput family helps you there to collect data. Husband and wife both were helping . They said they have two daughters . One is married who lives in bhopal and other lives in pune . They said we live here from a long period. When asking about bhariya they said yes they lives in bhariya dhana and patalkot valley. They tells you about Bhariya development agency that it works for Bhariya, also said that now bhariya people are developed they got govt job . Now they wear jeans , shirt pant. It motivates you to think about how people have image of primitive tribe bhariya.



Fig – 1 Local temple at laal pahadi and rock art site

Local guide and local bhariya people helps you to reach the hill .They come here to worship in temple and for walk. There is sunset point which is main attraction to tourist . Student and children enjoy it. Photographers love to click photos here.

Bhariya Dhana

Bhariya tribe mainly live in jabalpur and chhindwara . Bhariya is more than two lakh in number. Jabalpur is the most populous district of bhariya tribe. Bhariya tribe of patalkot valley is an attraction who lives in upper area.⁶ dhana is a part of village where local bhariya tribe lives here . Narrow lane is here where both sides of village have huts and houses of bhariya people . There is an anganwadi kendra where children comes for classes . During group discussion and interview bhariya people said that they have some relative in patalkot valley but rarely they goes to valley because it take time to reach there because the valley is steep so we don't go there . The road connectivity is good in patalkot valley but convence for the valley is not easy so still it is difficult for bhariya tribe to reach their because they don't have their personal convence and other facility like bus or van is not have proper facility. Only school going chidren have van facility which is available in morning and evening.

While observing the bhariya dhana street , one or two lady seems little shy because when they feel may be someone will enter their house or will tak to them they turn thei face to inward direction of home . It shows their vulneribilty. But after little effort they ready to talk and gives you some information about their culture belief system their life and situation.

A bhariya lady tells about her and shows her house too.



FIG-2 Tree fossil- Geological Site



FIG – 3 bird

Bird – Matches with the modern wattled lapwing

There is a beautiful bird painted on the rock it has round face pointed eye pointed beak , stomach which has an horizontal line, two thin legs has been painted , it has a long tail which is painted in upward direction. It is painted in maroon (geru) colour. May be this is a colour has been made by red rock of that hill . Its shape size and technique indicates it belongs to mesolithic period.

This bird matches with the modern wattled lapwing , it is common bird of that area , its alarming

call gives signal to human movement or any prey. Red wattled lapwing bird can be found in present tamia and also in madhya pradesh.



FIG - 4 Animal Figurine

Animal which looks like deer , it has big body small face and small legs and has some unique features , it has spirals within it . two anticlockwise spiral has been made. In present time we don't found any animal which has these kind of lines or geometrical pattern on their skin. So it can be said it is a innovative artistic expression of human being of that time.

In present time we don't found any deer in tamia , it shows decay of fauna in tamia region.

Paintings shown here indicates it belongs to Mesolithic period because in all paintings red ochre colour (geru) has been used .¹ Some minute feature indicates some paintings belongs to historical period . Man on horse and having sword denotes it's time period to historical period.

Result and Conclusion:

Tamia has a treasure of some oldest paintings of india . People tried to conserve that site but it is not conserved properly so it should be preserved because it has historical and archaeological evidence.

It is an important chapter for local people either they belong to bhariya tribe or gond tribe. It indicates the love for nature of that time.

It emphasise the life of different group of tamia people. How different group think about tamia rock painting and local primitive tribal group.



FIG – 5 Cupules



FIG -6 Man and bulluck

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