

HISTORY OF SINDH



General introduction :

SIND AND THE SINDHIS

Indus valley civilization and Sind in particular was the cradle of world civilizations .. The name Sind is derived from river Sindhu which is called Indus .Our ancient civilisation began here .

It is a confirmed fact that Navigation started on the Indus river around 6000 years ago .

We must feel proud of the fact that we originate from such an ancient and cultured country with a recognized civilisation of 5000 years.

There was a Sindhi version of the Mahabharata in 300 B.C during the Budhhist era of Sind.

Vasdeva the Kusha king at that time ordered the listing of all sindhi literary works in 346 A.D . But today there is no trace of these writings

But the definite assertion of the existence about these books proves that two thousand years ago , sindhi was already a written language.

After the creation of Pakistan millions of we Sindhi Hindus left Sind with empty hands and spread all over the world. It is to our credit that not only we have survived on our own and done very well but started innumerable colleges and hospitals all over the world.

The only very sad thing is that we are using less and less of our mother tongue amongst ourselves

Dada J.P.Vaswani says: The Sindhis don't have a land, nation or state to call their own. They are a scattered community, spread all over India, and in most countries of the world. If there is one thing that will help us to retain our identity, it is our language. Unfortunately Sindhis have neglected their mother tongue, and if we don't use the language, it will die in due course .. Language is the root of our community. Language is the Soul of our community. If the soul goes away, how long will can the community last?

How perfectly analysed. Our youngsters surely like to learn the language but they want everything short

and precise. So let us take that approach. They can go through [this article quickly](#) and try to understand why and how they must learn the language.

2. SINDHI SCRIPTS USED UNTIL TODAY FOR OUR SINDHI LANGUAGE

According to Prof. Trumpp, Sindhi is a pure Sanskrit language, more than any other North Indian language.

However, until today the script of Moenjodaro has not been deciphered, but there is no doubt that our computers will do it one day.

The Indus script has been known to exist for the last century but until today it has not been deciphered.

However, the studies by TIFR scientists and other world institutes suggest that Indus people wrote in a literary style and the script may have been written close to spoken languages like Tamil and Sanskrit. The linguistic structure of the Indus script suggests this.

Now the efforts are on to understand the grammatical structure of the script.

Sindhi language was a written language two thousand years ago.

Until today nobody knows precisely how many scripts the Sindhi language had from time immemorial.

It was originally written in 8 scripts at different times but when Al Biruni, a famous Arab scholar came to India in the 11th century, he found 3 types of derivatives of Devanagiri.

In the 19th century when the Britishers occupied Sind, they found Devanagiri script and Vaan-kee as well as Gurumukhi being used on a small scale.

They made an English Sindhi dictionary in Devanagiri script in 1850.

They even translated the Bible in Sindhi in Devanagiri script.

However, they thrust Arabic script on the Sindhi language even when it did not suit the language. This they did for the majority who were Muslims.

After partition we Sindhi Hindus have a choice of Arabic, Devanagiri along with phonetic Roman script.

Whereas in Pakistan, they have restrictions on teaching of Sindhi in schools,

We vote for phonetic Roman script for Sindhi.

Slowly and slowly Roman script is gathering strength. It was adopted in 2009 at L.A. America. Afterwards it was confirmed on 29.3.2010 at Ahmedabad after a few alterations.

3. Choice of script for Sindhi Language

There is a controversy going on about the script to be adopted for Sindhi language. This discussion is very necessary for we must realize that fewer and fewer people are using the Sindhi language in daily use. We must do something about it.

Now if we analyze, we come to the conclusion that out of 100 persons, some know the Arabic script, some Devanagiri script but practically all of us know the Roman script.

So why not make use of this reality? Around 4 million of Sindhis in different parts of the world speak in Sindhi but cannot read and write in Devnagiri or Arabic script .

So why not give them a chance to read and write in Phonetic Roman Script? Why not also persuade others who are not able to learn Arabic or Devnagiri script, to keep our language alive through the use of Phonetic Roman Script? Otherwise who is going to teach them arabic or Devnagiri script ?

Even a Muslim country like Indonesia with its Kawi Script (A derivative of the ancient Sanskrit script) which has been used for well over 1000 years, decided to adopt Roman script and today Bahasa Indonesia in roman script unites all the 5000 islands into a compact unit. Sukarno issued a decree in 1972 to switch over to roman script .

Turkey another muslim country also decided to adopt roman script in place of Persian / Arabic script .In 1928 Mustafa Kamal Ataturk issued a decree to switch over to roman script .

Swahili which was written before in Arabic Script is now written in Roman Script.

Fiji writes Hindi in roman script. Can you imagine ?

Countless other countries in the world have done so to ensure the survival of their language .

**The only thing that has to be done is to adjust the Roman Script phonetically so that there is only one way of reading and writing and that there should be no confusion at all. With all this in view, we have developed the phonetic roman script for Sindhis with the existing computer board. We are concentrating on colloquial Sindhi which is spoken and understood by every Sindhi
We are avoiding persian,arabic,urdu and sanskrit words .**

You can straightaway start reading the phonetic roman Sindhi However writing should not take more than 15 minutes after putting the charts before you...

4 . Short History of Sind

Indus basin is known to be a cradle for ancient civilisation .It was in contact with Mesopotamia , China and Egypt .

a. MEHRGARH : OLDEST VILLAGE IN INDUS VALLEY

Very few of us know about Mehrgarh near Bolan Pass Quetta - Balochistan.

Mehrgarh is probably the oldest site with distinct proofs that it existed in 7000 B.C and lived on farming of barley ,maize,wheat and dates . They also raised cattle.

There were mud brick houses. Figurines of females were found at the site..

Jewellery of semi precious stones has also been found at Mehrgarh .

Ceramics were also found there .They were masters in this art.

Vessels were also found Scientists while studying the remains of two men were shocked to see that their teeth had been attended to by an ancient dentist

Evidently they had advanced a lot in their quest for knowledge.

b. Lakhyan jo daro near Sukkur; 5000 year old settlement.

c. Ruins of Amri and Kota Diji in 3000 B.C

In Kota diji a drome flute domboro has been unearthed .

d. Ruins of Kani Kot in 2500 B.C

e. Moen jo Daro

MOEN JO DARO

Ruins of Moen jo daro : 25 kms. Away from Larkana city in Sind ..It was inhabited in 2000 B.C , abandoned in 1700 B.C and rediscovered in 1920 ‘ Around 50000 people stayed th~ere at one time. Maybe more.

It was probably abandoned due to the floods as river Indus changes its course very often Declared as Unesco world heritage site ., Unesco 1n 1997 gave U.S \$10 million for restoration and strengthening the base of the city .



Dancing Girl

The above 5 artistic seals prove the extent of progress achieved in 2000 B.C itself .

The dancing girl denotes self confidence.

Wayang Kulit of Indonesia bears a lot of similarity to it .

Scholars must do research on this similarity .

The statue of the priest or king shows power and dignity .It is draped in a cloth which is presumed to be Ajrak.It is a two sided resist printing on cotton fabric .

Ajrak is a very highly dyeing and printing achievement of Sind on cotton fabric It is practically used on all occasions from birth to death.

Dr. Ela.Manoj.Dedhia has done excellent research on Ajrak .She has even written a book on the subject.

She organizes exhibitions on Ajrak cloth .Those who are genuinely interested,can write to her at elamanojdedhia@yahoo.com

Quite a few statues of goddesses were also found at the site .

Moen jo daro had an excellent drainage system,planned wide roads, two storied houses - made of baked mud. There were also huge granaries for storage,.

According to latest reports on google all the ancient sites are eroding due to goverment neglect and public aphathy.

It is very heartening to know that Tata's Fundemental Institute of Research which is highly respected all over the world , is undertaking a research on Moen jo Daro to find out if the city was laid as per astronomical placements of stars at that time like is the case with Borobudur ,the largest Budhhist Complex in the world In Indonesia and Angkor Vat in Cambodia

Moen Jo Daro is a few hours drive from Karachi and is in Larkana .

According to Makarand Khatavkar who also conducted a lot of research on Moen Jo daro,the layout of the ancient Moen Jo Daro is astonishing and so are the seals

Some streets in Moen Jo Daro were 33 feel broad, and had markets on both sides

- f. .At Moen jo Daro , there is a 5000 year old well and the workers were drinking water from it .
- g. Another very striking point was that no weapons of war were found at Moen Jo Daro.
- h.
- i. After Moen jo Daro,we must also mention :

Budhhist Stupa at Mirpur Khas

Shiva's Budhhist Temple at Debal

Beautiful Motifs at Chawkandi tombs on the outskirts of Karachi belonging to the 16-17th Century and built by a Baluchi tribe are also slowly decaying.

Same applies to the magnificent architecture at Makli near Thata which is the largest graveyard in the world and has nearly 50000 graves . Both these sites are Unesco protected areas. Yet they are decaying

j.

According to latest reports on google all the ancient sites are eroding due to government neglect and public apathy.

a.

k.

a. **At the same time with Moen jo Dari ,three other civilizations namely Mesopotamia , Egypt and China were also flourishing .**

a.

b. **In 800 B.C Egyptians attacked Sind**

c. **Next the Persians ruled over Sind during the reign of King Darius.**

d. **In 325 B.C Alexandar the great attacked Sind.**

e. **Budhhist Era for 3 centuries.**

f. **In 550 A.D a local Hindu kingdom was founded by Raja Chach .He was succeeded by the most famous king of Sindh- Raja Daher whom the Sindhis in Pakistan consider as a martyr for he died resisting foreign invasion .**

g. **711 A.D Mohammed bin Kasim attacked Sindh and conquered it .**

h. **This was followed by Muslim kingdoms for the next 11 centuries**

i. **British rule 1843 to 1947 : Sir Charles Napier was the person who annexed Sind .**

j. **1947 Formation of Pakistan and the exodus of Sindhi Hindus to India and various parts of the world . The Sindhis migrated to Ajmer,Ahmedabad,Bhopal, Nagpur, Jalgaon and Ulhasnagar –Kalyan and other places in India.**

Quite a few went to countries outside India . Today's statics :In Pakistan , there are 70% Sindhis,17% in India and 13% overseas.

Simultaneously Maharao Shri of Kutch very gracefully allotted 15000 acres to the Sindhis for resettlement What a noble gesture ! The entire project was handed over to Bhai Pratap to develop a self sufficient city with roads,and infrastructure, etc. rtc.

This city was planned by a world reknown Italian architect.

k.

In due course housing projects , educational institutes and hospitals etc were built.

The city is still growing