

Archaeology as an Indian Knowledge system: Rakhigarhi

Dr.Pallavi Nalawde-Jambhale

Rakhigarhi excavation: Video

- [ASI Director:](#)
- https://youtu.be/rT_Qf9LkhvY
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- <https://youtu.be/saG0sKpclRw>
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- [7000 old skeleton:](#)
- <https://youtu.be/wyslgN6olqc>
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- [NDTV Burial information video:](#)
- <https://youtu.be/4L63bOMyPS8>
- [Competitive exams class video:](#)
- <https://youtu.be/wOhHAom6b-E>

Introduction to Indian Archaeology

- Definition: Archaeology is the study of human history and prehistory through the excavation of sites and the analysis of artifacts and other physical remains.
- Significance in India: India has a rich archaeological heritage, reflecting its diverse and ancient cultures.
- Key Contributions: Understanding ancient civilizations, cultural practices, and technological advancements.

Indian Archaeological Periods

Prehistoric Period:
Stone Age, Mesolithic,
Neolithic

Protohistoric Period:
Indus Valley
Civilization (IVC)

Historic Period: Vedic
Age, Mauryan Empire,
Gupta Empire,
Medieval Period

Introduction to Rakhigarhi

Location: Rakhigarhi is situated in the Hisar district of Haryana, India.

Significance: It is one of the largest sites of the Indus Valley Civilization, spanning over 300 hectares.

Discovery: First excavated in the 1960s, with significant findings in recent decades.

Historical Background of Rakhigarhi

Timeline: Inhabited around 2600-1900 BCE.

Urban Planning: Evidence of advanced urban planning with well-organized streets, drainage systems, and multiroomed houses.

Agriculture: Evidence of advanced agricultural practices and trade networks.

Major Findings at Rakhigarhi

Artifacts: Pottery, tools, ornaments, and seals.

Burials: Discovery of burial sites providing insights into the social and cultural practices.

Genetic Studies: Recent DNA analysis linking the Rakhigarhi population to present-day populations.

Rakhigarhi and the Indus Valley Civilization

Urbanization: Rakhigarhi was a major urban center of the IVC, showcasing its peak in urban development.

Trade: Evidence of trade with Mesopotamia and other regions.

Decline: The site provides clues about the decline of the IVC around 1900 BCE.

Importance of Rakhigarhi in Indian Archaeology

Size and Scope: Being one of the largest Harappan sites, it offers extensive data on the civilization.

Continuity: Shows continuity in cultural practices from the IVC to later periods.

Technological Insights: Provides evidence of technological advancements in metallurgy, pottery, and construction.

Modern Archaeological Methods in Rakhigarhi

Excavation Techniques: Use of modern excavation methods and tools.

Scientific Analysis: Carbon dating, DNA analysis, and material characterization.

Interdisciplinary Approach: Collaboration between archaeologists, historians, geneticists, and other scientists.

Conclusion

Significance: Rakhigarhi is pivotal in understanding the Indus Valley Civilization and its legacy in Indian history.

Preservation: Importance of preserving archaeological sites for future research and education.

Future Research: Encouraging further excavations and studies to uncover more about India's ancient past.

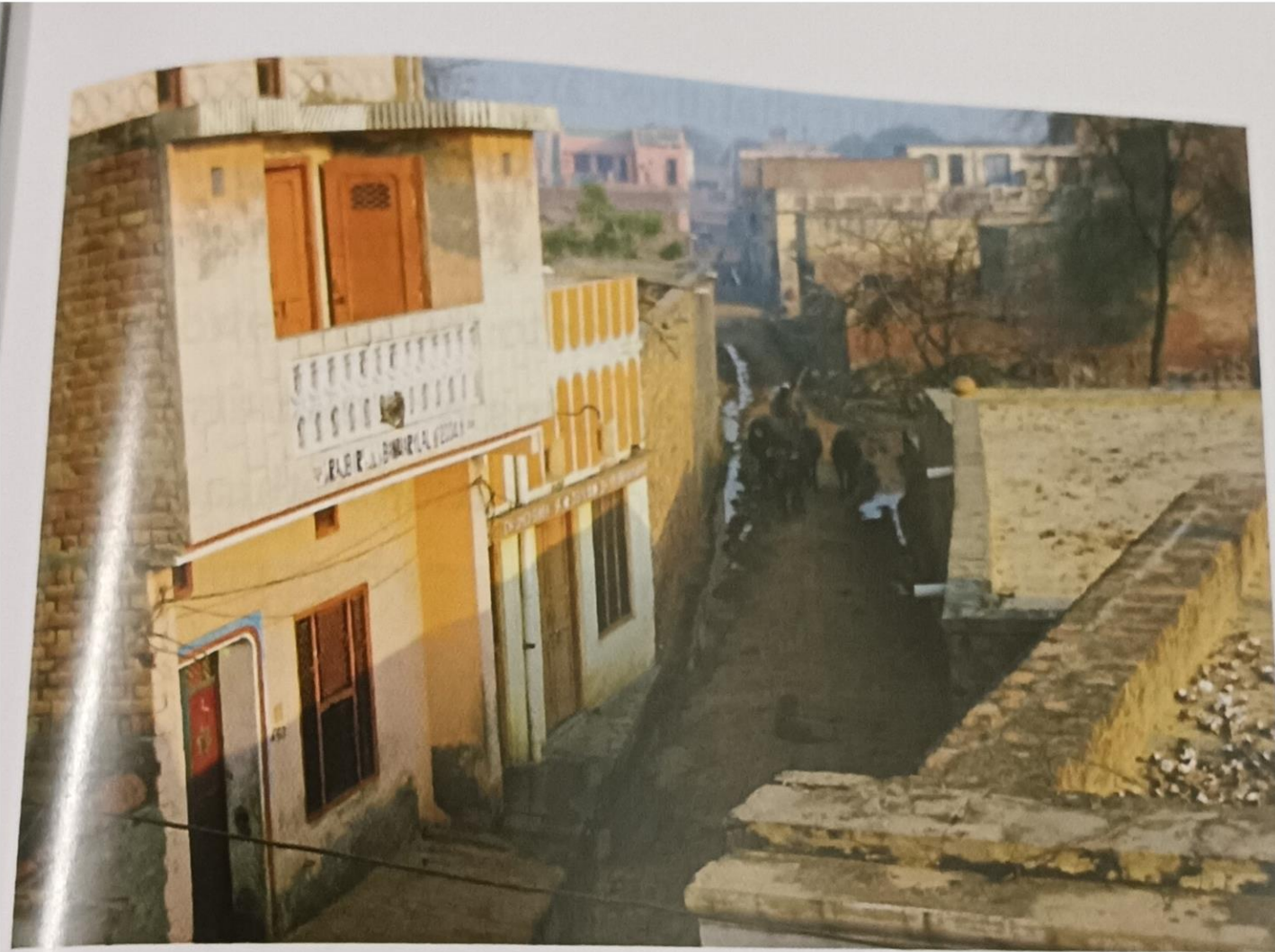


Fig. 57 : Plan of the modern village at Rakhigarhi. Note that the drainage is choked and spread in the street



Fig. 59 : Harappan ploughed field

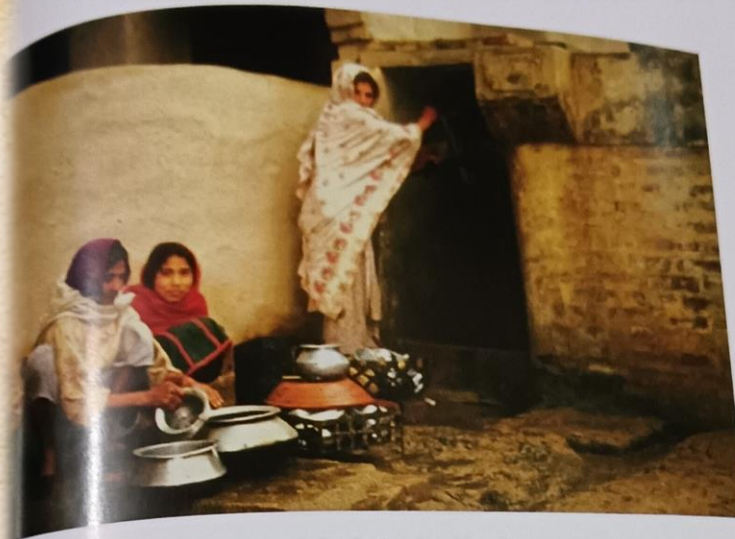


Fig. 63 : Shapes of the modern metal pots are exactly similar to the Harappan pots

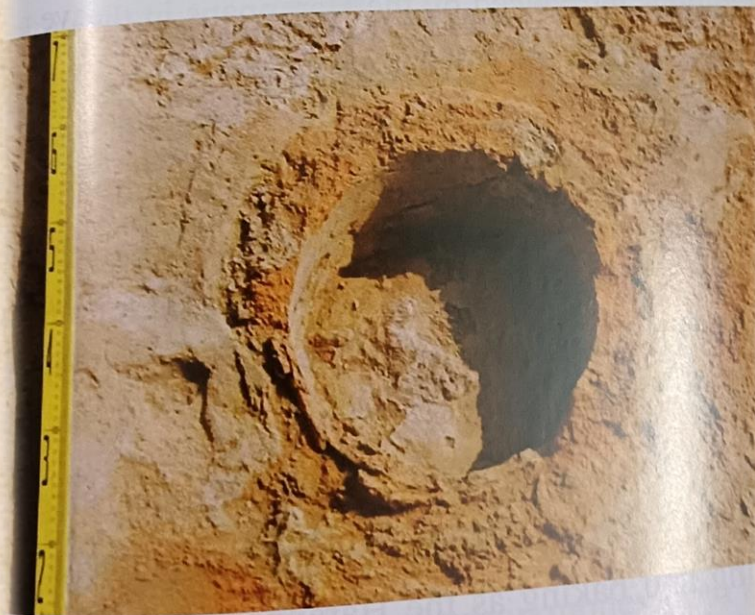


Fig. 64 : Harappan tandoor, Farmana

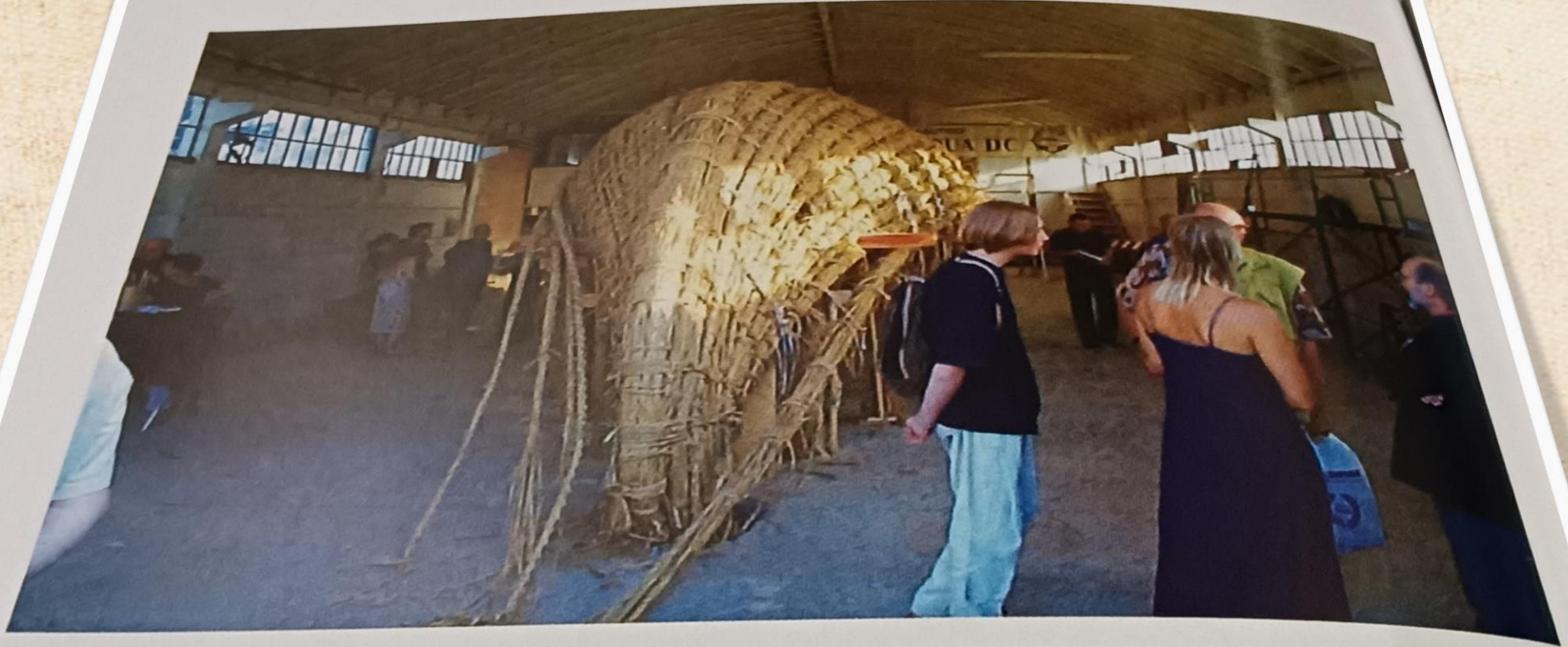


Fig. 68 : They are built possibly by using the same technique

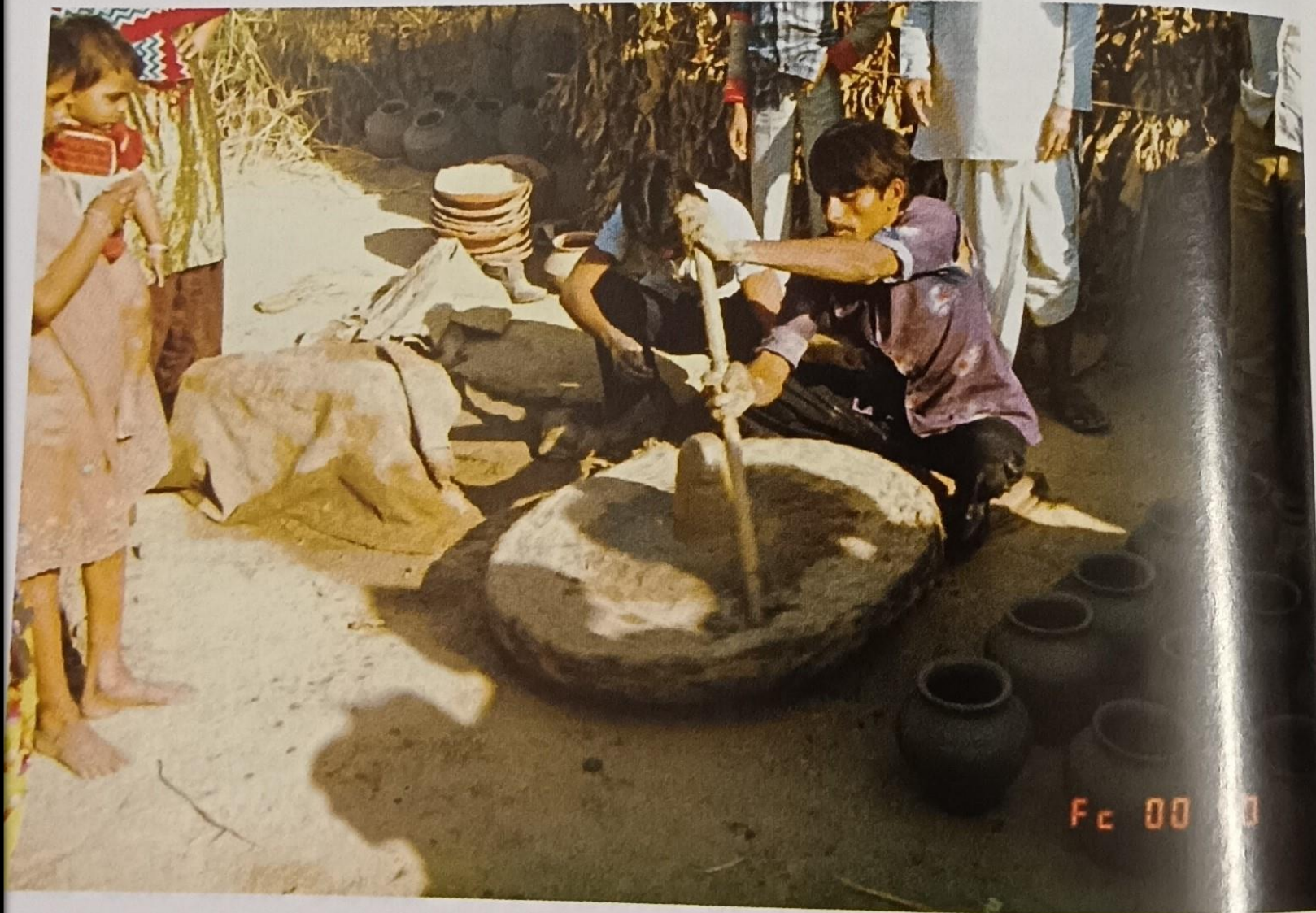


Fig. 69 : Potters use the wheel for manufacture of pottery



Fig. 70 : Modern painting style similar to the ancient.



**Fig. 72 : Dancing girl
shown wearing**



**Fig. 73 : Harappan
tradition of wearing bangles
bangles on one hand on one
hand continues in parts of
western India even today**

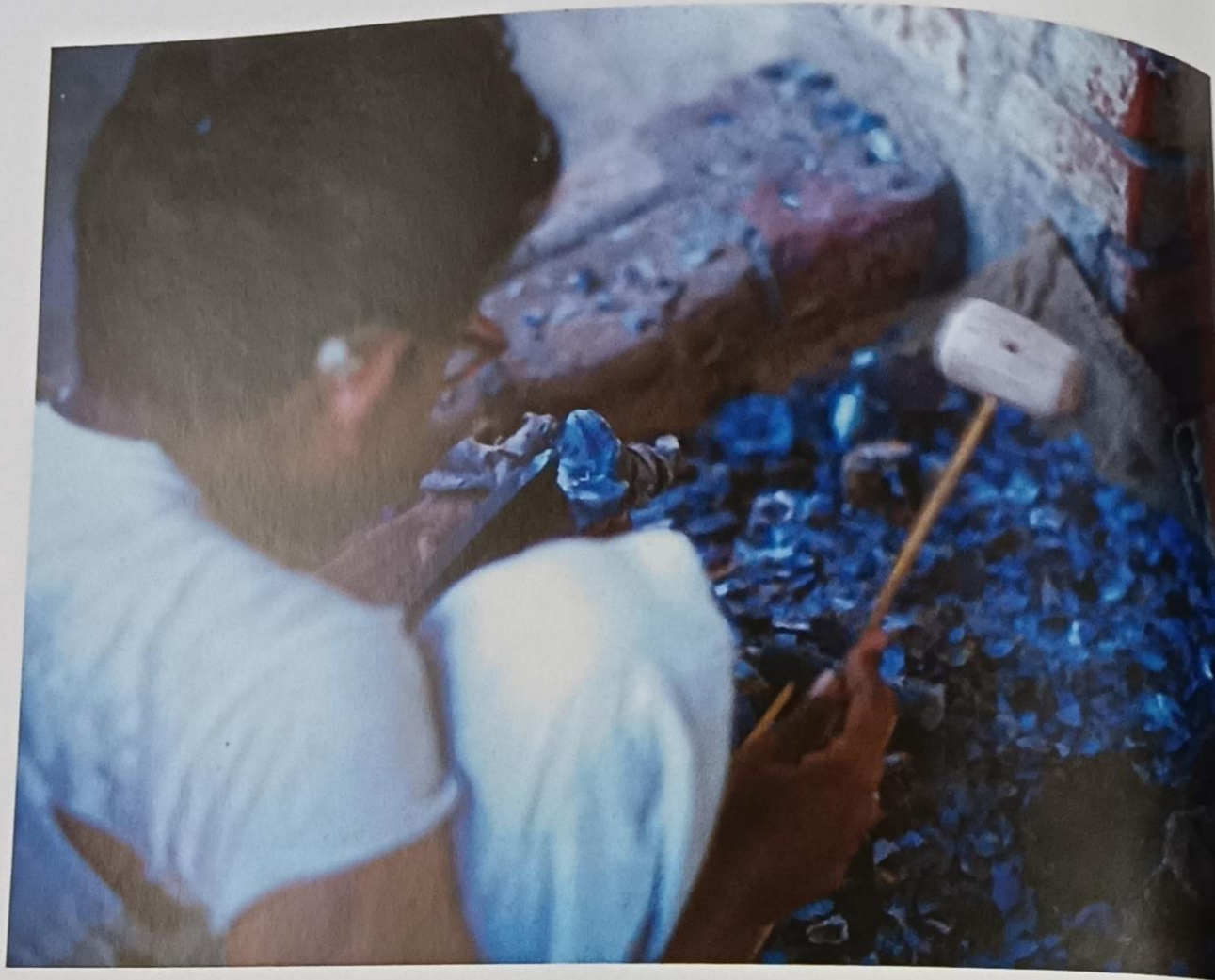


Fig. 71 : Craftsman from Khambhat in Gujarat in the process of selecting suitable raw material for the manufacture of stone beads. They use the same technology for manufacture as the Harappans did.



terracotta model of feeding bottle, K...



Fig. 80 : Placing vermilion in parted hair, this tradition was introduced during the Harappan times and remains an important tradition among married Hindu women today (After Lal 2002)