

by Otis Crandell, 2021-07-19 13:10

Manuscript: <http://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.4744346> version Ran-thok and Ling-chhom: indigenous grinding stones of Shertukpen tribes of Arunachal Pradesh, India

Rewards recommended - Ran-thok and Ling-chhom

Recommendation - 2nd round

This paper has been reviewed again (second and final round of reviews). Two of the reviewers recommended that the authors make a few additional revisions that they didn't make after the first round of reviews. The reviews are copied below.

If the authors make the suggested revisions, the paper should be ready for publication.

Dear Sir,

Thank you very much for the positive evaluation of our manuscript. We sincerely improved the paper by incorporating the much needed corrections as wished by the reviewers. I hope the revised version of the manuscript will convince you and the reviewers.

Regards,

Prof. Gibji Nimasow (Corresponding Author)

Reviews

Reviewed by Antony Borel, 2021-05-12 21:24

This revised version of the paper "**Ran-thok and Ling-chhom: indigenous grinding stones of Shertukpen tribes of Arunachal Pradesh, India**" has been improved from the previous one. Illustrations have been added and/or improved.

However, we can regret that the methodology is still not very clear. The interviews or at least the questions asked are still not provided and are lacking to properly assess the reported results.

Done. We have incorporated a sentence narrating the contents of the questionnaire and the questionnaire has been attached (supplementary 1) as because the questionnaire itself consists of 6 pages and cannot be included in the text. For the kind reference of the respected reviewer, the questionnaire is attached at the last page of this reply.

In my previous review of this manuscript, considering this paper as a small descriptive report, I had no much comment but I have pointed out in particular the sentence: "However, declining availability of raw materials such as wood and bamboo has encouraged Shertukpen artisans to adapt to their environment and become skilled experts in making stone tools". I mentioned that this statement could be interesting after clarification to precise if this was the authors' observation or suggestion or if the Shertukpens explained that to them. In this revised version this has been modified into "The availability of raw materials such as stone and wood in the surroundings has encouraged the Shertukpen artisans to become skilled experts in making stone tools". This new statement is contradictory with the previous one as, before, the decline of wood

and bamboo led to the stone tool production expertise while now this expertise is the results of the availability of both stone and wood. Therefore, which is closest to reality?

Thank you for the observations. We had clarified in the earlier reply to the recommender and reviewers' comments that the context was expressed wrongly. Hence, it was corrected to "The availability of raw materials such as stone and wood in the surroundings has encouraged the Shertukpen artisans to become skilled experts in making stone tools" which is closest to the reality. The earlier sentence is contradictory because we do not find any significant linkages between the declining raw materials such as wood and bamboo with the making of stone tools in this study.

I still think that such report is important to "secure" this heritage and also because it may give clues to interpret better archaeological materials. However, in its present form, it is a descriptive and potentially subjective report rather than a research paper which would provide clear, precise and rigorous methodology with assessable statements.

Thanks a lot for the important opinion. We are really sorry to say that we didn't observe or found such report and even the villagers do not reveal it during the interviews and discussions. So, we are unable to incorporate the initial sentence and retained the later sentence which is closest to reality which was informed by the respondents and also observed by us during the field survey. In terms of the methodology, we have marked the questionnaire as supplementary 1 and if the journal allows for the inclusion of supplementary files then it would be clearer now.

Minor comments:

Table 1: This table is not well formatted which makes it difficult to read and confusing. The list of the villages in the first column is useless, they are provided in the text. Then, the types of grinding stones could be the first column with each type as different separated lines. The other columns could be their different information of size and the raw material corresponding to each type could be given. In the present format, it is not clear if each raw material is used for each type of grinding tools.

Actually, this table may be removed as all the details are already provided in the text.

Thank you for keen observations. We have corrected the table as per the suggestions. Although the table was suggested to be removed finally as all the details are already provided in the text but we have retained it by considering the suitable comments of the second reviewer (I like the use of the table to sum up information). While doing so, we have made appropriate modifications as desired by the first reviewer.

Page 6-7: "The wooden tool is 20cm in diameter and 60cm in height" => remove one "the"

Done. Thank you.

Reviewed by Andrea Squitieri, 2021-05-26 09:01

I can see that the paper has been greatly improved from the first version. The terminology is now more clear, and I like the use of the table to sum up information.

Thank you very much for the appreciations. We tried our best to improve the manuscript.

Only small corrections:

1. grinding-stone / grinding stone. Both forms appear in the text. Only one should be used and I think it should be grinding stone (much more common than with "-")

Thanks for the keen observations. Done. There were two sections with the usage of "grinding-stone" that has been corrected to "grinding stone".

2. Line 236: craftsperson --> craftspeople

Done. Thank you once again.

Reviewed by Atefeh Shekofteh, 2021-06-18 19:00

I have reviewed the paper entitled "Ran-thok and Ling-chhom: indigenous grinding stones of Shertukpen tribes of Arunachal Pradesh, India" for the second time.

In my opinion, now, it is acceptable for publishing.

Heartfelt thanks to the respected reviewer for recommending our work. We are very much grateful to you for sharing your valuable opinion and taking the pain for reviewing second time.

Apart from the reviewer comments, we have performed the grammar and spell check of the manuscript once again and certain articles have been corrected accordingly.

We express thanks and gratefulness to the respected reviewers, the recommender and the PCI-Archaeology for such an excellent and timely review of our manuscript.

With Regards,



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Theme: Ran-thok and Ling-chhom: indigenous grinding stones of Shertukpen tribes of Arunachal Pradesh, India

QUESTIONNAIRE

1.0 IDENTIFICATION:

- (a) District:
- (b) Circle:
- (c) Name of the village:
- (d) Name of the respondent:
- (e) Relationship of respondent with the head of household:
- (f) Age of respondent:
- (g) Educational qualification: Illiterate / Prim. / Sec. / Graduate / PG / Professional
- (h) Religion: Hindu / Buddhist / Christian / Others, if any specify
- (i) Tribe / Sub-tribe:
- (j) Clan:
- (k) Total number of family members:
 - (i) Below 14 years
 - (ii) Between 15 – 59
 - (iii) Above 60

2.0 INFORMATION ON GRINDING STONES

2.1 USAGE OF GRINDING STONES

1. Do you use grinding stones? Yes/No, if yes, then specify the types:

2. How long you are using the grinding stones? Please explain:

3. Does every household in the village use the grinding stones? Please explain:

4. Name the cereals/nuts that are ground using rotary querns/nutting stone.

5. Who performs the grinding activity? Male/Female/Both

2.2 MANUFACTURERS AND MANUFACTURING PROCESS

1. Do you manufacture the grinding stones yourself? Yes/No
2. Are there specific professional group that makes grinding stones? Please explain:

3. Which stone is/are used for manufacturing the grinding stones? Please explain:

4. Which stone is/are preferred for manufacturing grinding stones?

5. From where the stone and other raw materials obtained? Please explain:

6. Are there differences in raw materials used between the villages? Please explain:

7. What are the different tools/equipments used for making grinding stones? Please explain:

8. Name the materials used in indigenous tools/equipments.

9. Could you please explain the stepwise procedure of making grinding stones?

10. Which step is the most time consuming and laborious? Please explain:

11. How long it takes to make a rotary quern (*Ran-thok*)? Please explain:

12. How long it takes to make a nutting stone (*Ling-chhom*)? Please explain:

13. What are the mean sizes of the finished products (*Ran-thok* and *Ling-chhom*)?

14. Are there differences in the mean size of the grinding stones between the villages?

15. Are these grinding stones sold or traded?

16. Do the manufacturing skills are inherited from generation to generation?

2.3 PARTS AND FUNCTION OF RAN-THOK AND LING-CHHOM

1. What are the different parts of *Ran-thok* (rotary quern)?

2. What are the materials used for different parts of *Ran-thok*?

3. What are the shape and sizes of different parts of *Ran-thok*?

4. Whether men/women/both operates the *Ran-thok*?

5. What are the gestures of performing activity in *Ran-thok*?

6. What are the types of *Ling-chhom* (nutting stone)?

7. What are the different parts of *Ling-chhom*?

8. What are the materials used for different parts of *Ling-chhom*?

9. What are the shape, length, width and height of the *Ling-chhom*?

10. Whether men/women/both operates the *Ling-chhom*?

11. What are the gestures of performing activity in *Ling-chhom*?

12. Which plant species are used for making the wooden *Ling-chhom*?

13. Which grains and nuts are pounded using *Ling-chhom*?

2.4 OTHER INFORMATIONS

1. Is the use of grinding stones specific to your village or tribe?

2. Whether the grinding practices are still prevalent in your village?

3. What are the reasons for declining usage rate of stone tools these days in the society?

4. Is the grinding stone tools linked to your culture and tradition?

Thank you very much for your kind cooperation and patience.