

## *Review of*

# **“Ran-thok and Ling-chhom: indigenous grinding stones of Shertukpen tribes of Arunachal Pradesh, India”**

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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.

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?

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.

### **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.

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