

## **The Role of Museum in Education Sector: A Case Study of Balochistan Study Center Museum University of Balochistan, Quetta. An Archaeological Perspective**

Archaeology

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### **Abstract**

*This piece of research discusses the role of Balochistan Study Center (BSC) Museum in the field of education. The museum is one of the prominent and academic museums in Balochistan. In spite of that the museum play a pivotal role in the field of education, such as an institution, through exhibition, by research, survey, preservation, and up to date knowledge through the publication of bi-annual journal by the name of Balochistan review. Consequently, the researcher highlights the aspect that which communities of society can gain knowledge easily from museum such as scholars, students, visitors, researchers and educated peoples from the society. However, the piece of research shows the history of cultural heritage in the BSC museum. The history of ancient objects of Balochistan dating back to Pliocene, Neolithic, Chalcolithic, Iron Age, early Islamic history and the period of British as well the Khanate of Kalat. Descriptive approach and analytical method used in this research.*

**Key words:** Museum, Prehistory, Tangible, Intangible, Artifacts, Preservation, exhibition

### **Introduction of Museum**

International Council of Museums define museum in 1946 in his words "The word "museums" includes all collections open to the public, of artistic, technical, scientific, historical or archaeological material, including zoos and botanical gardens, but excluding libraries, except in so far as they maintain permanent exhibition rooms" (ICOM :1946).

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However, International Council of Museums define the advance definition of museum “A museum is a non-profit making, permanent institution in the service of society and of its development, and open to the public, which acquires, conserves, researches, communicates and exhibits, for purposes of study, education and enjoyment, material evidence of people and their environment” (ICOM : 2001). According to Weil, the museum was meant to be a place where all might come to “improve themselves, their lives and their communities by communing for an hour or two with the exalted works of art” (Weil 1995: 87).

### **Balochistan Study Center Museum**

Balochistan Study Center (BSC) Museum (Fig. 1) is one of the earliest and rich Museums in Balochistan in terms of cultural objects. The Museum is consist of a hall type gallery where has been exhibited different types of artifacts (archaeological, historical, cultural, geological and ethnological) in the hall of Museum. The renowned Museum preserved the archeological artifacts, which came from the different channels, such as collected during the surveys, gifted by volunteers and came from excavated sites of Balochistan.

The Museum has been received artifacts of Neolithic sites (Mehrgarh, KilliGul Muhammad) Nall, Kulli (Naseer 2104: 195) and the Chalcolithic sites of PiranoGhaundi Harappan site of Nausharo and the other renowned sites of central Balochistan, such as Londo andAnjira. There are also well-preserved the artifacts of Makran, Barkhan, Khuzdar, Noshki, Mastung, Pishin, Surab, Kalat, Awaranand other districts of Balochistan.

### **Foundation stone and donations of Museum**

The Museum was built by the help of several intellectuals of Balochistan such as Abdulla Jan Jamaldini, Muhammad Khan Raisani and Dr. Bahadur Khan Rodani. The researcher a personal communication with the caretaker of Zabad Museum, Muhammad Hassan Bangulzai, he told that the Zabad Museum was earliest from the BSC Museum. He further says that Professor Abdul RazaqSabir visited Zabad Museum and library. So, he takes idea from this Museum. The Zabad Museum is situated in Mastung that is a private museum-cum-library.

Several of Scholars hard worked for the establishment, collection and donation of the BSC Museum like Abdul Razaq Sabir, Abdul Hameed

Shahwani, Ghulam Farooq Baloch and several other scholars would succeed for the establishment of Museum (Nasir 2014: 64). Officially, the Museum inaugurated in 2005. The several other political, literary and scholarly people of Balochistan voluntarily donate precious artifacts and other cultural objects for the society. The donors are Manzoor Baloch, Siddique Mirwani, Jahangir Marri, Bahram Khan Lehri and Sardar Akhtar Jan Mengal and so on. In a personal communication with Farooq Baloch who told that more than seventy objects were donated by Wadera Abdul Razaq Khetrani from the sites of Barkhan District.

### **Exhibited Cultural Heritage**

In a personal communication with Ghulam Farooq Baloch who told that there are Six hundred objects were exhibited in the showcases of Museum and more than two thousands are preserved in store. In spite of that in the Museum has noticed potteries (Fig.5) and potsherds, terracotta bangles (Fig. 4), microliths stone tools (Fig. 3), earthenware objects (Fig. 10), handlock (Fig. 12), human and animal figurines (Fig. 6,7), stone weights and terracotta pipes (Fig. 8), necklaces, rings, eggs of Dinosaur, sand dollars and the fossils of juniper trees as well sea shells (Fig. 2). There is some inscription are preserved too in the gallery which are in Persian and Arabic languages (Fig. 9). The Muslim period grave stones are preserved in the Museum too. While the ethnological culture of Balochistan is too preserved in the shape of tangible and intangible culture in this Museum.

### **Descriptions of the Objects**

There are different types of objects exhibited in the Museum however the archaeological ethnological and geological objects, as well coins and Islamic manuscripts.

The archaeological objects of the Museum are noticed microliths stone tools which are came from Mehrgarh site. The tools are found in the shape of blades. The several ceramic cultures preserved in the Museum such as Quetta Culture, Kachi Beg Culture, Faiz Muhammad Grey ware, Nall culture, Londo Culture and Kulli Culture. The ceramic industry used for the purpose of storage, cooking and ritual purposes. The ceramics are recorded in the shape of jars, beakers, bowls, dish on stand exhibited in the showcases of BSC Museum. The potteries of Museum came mostly from whole

Balochistan. The techniques of potteries are Handmade and Wheel made technique. The potteries are decorated with bichrome and polychrome. Some of them decorated with zoomorphic and leaf pattern while few shards are decorated like geometrical designs. However, the Harappan bangles and shell bangles have displayed in Museum. The bangles are used by females as a jewelry purpose. Human and animal figurines are the crucial heritage of BSC Museum. The human figurines both male and female are preserved in the Museum. The female figurines are mostly similar to the figurines of Zhob mother goddesses. The animal figurines are mostly humped Bull. Stone weights of Museum show the ancient trade system of region. In spite of that the swords and weapons are belonged to British epoch and Khanate period.

The Museum has preserved some oldest inscriptions of Persian and Arabic languages, those are Holy Qurans, poetry and few literature books. The ethnological objects, are belong to indigenous culture of Balochistan, there are preserved the local culture. The museum also preserved the fossils of sand dollars, Dinosaur eggs and the fossils of juniper trees as well teeth and other parts of giant's animals. The fossil of Sand dollars belongs to the Pliocene period (Iqbal 2015:96). However, the replica of Dinosaur and the statue of Mir Chakar Khan Rind are displayed in the entrance of Museum.

### **The key role of Museum in education**

Museum plays a vital role in a society to educate, to develop and flourish awareness about the life style of ancestors, in the shape of exhibitions, research, diploma, journals and events. Additionally, opportunities are seen in educating international visitors about their culture. The develop pride in local traditions and customs play an important role in tourism should have exhibitions relevant to the local area.

Museums are playing a crucial role in society. Grand halls, real objects or comprehensive exhibitions do need visitor engagement in order to be fairly called museums caring for our culture and for future generations. Museum an essential role in helped its citizens to recognize their place in the world and its heritage and that they connect our past with our present and our future. Museums do make a positive contribution to society, according to prominent scholars the traditional role of museums is to collect objects and equipment of cultural, religious and historical importance, preserve them,

research into them and present them to the public for the purpose of education and enjoyment.

In early time the museums were free for the community and not used to for the financial energy. The aims of museum were that to flourish awareness in society to educate the public for the ancient people's life and life style (Schwarzer 2006:10).

### **How a Museum play a role in education**

There are several scientific and systematic methods, the Museum play some glorious ways in the promotion of education such as museum used as an educational institution, provide research opportunities, published journals, arrange seminars and exhibition for education purpose.

### **Museum the key tool of education**

Museum is the key tool of education; however, the tangible and intangible artifacts of Museum play a key role in the field of education. The tangible cultures are that those objects which we can touch. However, the researcher can observe, analyze and test them in a lab for the purpose of research (Skyrda 2012: 4) On the other hand; the intangible culture is that we cannot touch them, so only it will be feel. The intangible culture in Museum is that the philosophy behind the objects, ideas, theories and their history are belonging to them. Nevertheless, the language, religion, norms and traditions are untouchable culture of society.

The BSC Museum preserved the tangible and intangible culture of ancient and present Balochistan. The objects of Museum show the evidences of Neolithic activities in Balochistan. The several types of fossils show the history of land from the Pliocene and Pleistocene (Iqbal 2015: 22-40). The manuscripts and carving designs on gravestones too showed the early Islam period in different areas of Balochistan. The mother goddess show, early religious ideas of past people. However, different cultures of ceramic confirmation the early development stages in the ancient societies of Balochistan. The stone weights prove the economic activities in Balochistan.

### **Exhibition for educational purpose**

Museum is the place where the ancestor cultural heritages are preserved. The Curator of Museum sometime held an exhibition of objects to the purpose of society and educated people. The aims of exhibition are several, one is that it

flourished awareness in society, educate the society and give opportunity to the visitors. However, they can easily visit the exhibition area.

The exhibition would be held in the University of Balochistan, so the BSC Museum displays their objects for the purpose of education. However, the students, visitors, scholars and the other people of society they may get awareness and knowledge about the prehistory, history and ethnological culture of Balochistan.

### **Research is the right way of education**

A Museum has exhibited hundreds of objects in the specific galleries. Those objects belonged to the different phases of history. However, some of the objects came from the survey, excavations, donations as well purchased and treasure channel.

In spite of that the BSC Museum has the objects of survey, excavation and donation. Majority of the objects are donations and surface collections. The aims and objectives of a researcher who wants to trace the history and origin of the objects. However, majority of the objects are not published and nor research on them. So, the BSC Museum opens a door for the researchers to develop research ideas on the objects of the Museum. Like the Mother goddesses, that came from different areas of Balochistan by different channels has preserved in Museum. Now a researcher can research on it and give a hypothesis or conclusion about them. For instance, where first time the statues of mother goddesses manufactured? What the mother goddesses are the toys or made for the purpose of religious worship? How the mother goddesses had worshiped for the purpose of agriculture? What the mother goddesses of Balochistan at the ancient time indicate to love with mother land, may be the ancient peoples of Balochistan love with their land. Now if a rational researcher applies theories on their research. They can easily find out the answer of above questions. In spite of that the research can truly produce authentic knowledge in the society.

### **A research journal considers the legacy of education**

The Museum is to consider a research and education institution. The researchers and scholars conduct research on different aspect of preserved objects. The aim and objective of researcher is that who carries work and analyze the data as well published them in the recognized research journal.

However, a research Journal can produce current knowledge and current approaches as well current discussion, to inform the society about the tangible and intangible history of objects.

In spite of that BSC Museum has published a bi-annual research journal by the name of “Balochistan Review” so; the research journal is recognized by Higher Education Commission. The prominent journal is published the papers of history, linguistic, archaeology, geology, and also cover the topics of socio-economic aspects of Balochistan. The journal has ability to play a positive role in the field of research. The journal is frequently providing opportunities and facilitates indigenous scholars about publication and research.

### **Opportunities of Surveys**

The purpose of knowledge is that to flourish awareness in society. Museum is the best institution where researchers and trainers can produce awareness about the preservation, conservation and survey the archaeological and monumental heritage as well they too aware the students about the research and techniques of research. However, survey is the key objective of Museum where during the surface collection a researcher can collect gigantic quantity of cultural materials. The surface collections play a vital role in the current research and increase the quantity of objects in Museum. The surface collection considers primary data.

In spite of that the Museum of BSC still in the process of development. The team of BSC had conducted surveys in the different areas of Balochistan under the supervision of Dr. Ghulam Farooq Baloch. The team has covered the area of Barkhan, Noshki, Lasbella and Khuzdar. The team had played a pivotal role in the contraction of Museum and collection of the objects from door to door. However, the teams of BSC give the opportunities to researcher to conduct proper survey the archaeological and historical and pre historical monuments of Balochistan. Such as Nadeem Aziz Khoso(2015) and Muhammad Iqbal (2015) from the Quaid e Azam University took the archaeological survey of Barkhan and Shakir Naseer has conducted the archaeological survey of Noshki, Balochistan. The previous data which collect the researcher from the field work. So it is the fundamental and self-learning knowledge. However, the researcher applies several theories on data, analyze

materials. The main advantage of research is that the researcher used his self-creativity(Trofanenko 2006:49-65).

### **Museum is an education Institution**

Museum is to consider a place, where knowledge produces from the empirical approach. The objects of Museum are displayed in the galleries in the tangible shape. However, the researchers can observe the objects, analyze it and for further test it in the theoretical framework, fields labs. So, after the systematic and scientific research he can able to conclude and may be give a hypothesis on this piece of research. In spite of that the researcher concludes that the Museum is a class room or an institution. The western Museums have conducted class rooms in their Museum building. However, the museums take the classes of research, diploma, conservation and preservation (Hein 2004:8).

In spite of that the Museum of Balochistan Study Center is itself an institution. The scholars have conduct research on the exhibited objects of history and pre-history.

### **This approaches peoples of society gain knowledge from Museum**

There are several types of peoples who gain knowledge from the Museum about their previous history, culture, norms, traditions, religion and languages.

### **The researchers**

The major role of Museum is to facilitate researchers who scientifically research on the objects of the Museum. However, the Museum objects are belonged to the pre historic and proto historic as well historic period. Those researchers who interested in the ancient history of Balochistan who can do research on the exhibited objects of BSC Museum.

### **The visitors**

Museum is an educational institution that exhibited and inevitably interprets their collections for visitors. A museum cordially welcomes the local and foreign visitors and to facilitate and educate the audience. The BSC Museum is open for the all types of visitors include foreign visitors and scholars. Those who interested in the history of Balochistan must visit the rich institution of Balochistan.



### **The students**

Museum is the place where the ancestor legacy is preserved however several scholars research on them. The students belong to school life and read the books; therefore, the Museum is the institution of self-learned system. The empirical approach applies on the objects; it is a big opportunity for the students first time they observe their history, culture and ancestors leftovers. However, they can learn easily from the atmosphere of museum (Greenhill 1999: xii).

Museum is a place where students can gain knowledge through the empirical approach and easily understand them and the objects will be copied on the mind of students. Therefore, the teacher oral lecture is only ratification.

### **Conclusion**

Museum is opened for the public, visitors, scholars, pilgrims, and especially for the students. Museums play a central role to aware the society about the history, pre-history, events, cultural legacy, monuments and the life style of ancient people.

The BSC Museum is a rich institution in Balochistan. It has preserved the tangible and intangible culture of ancient Balochistan. The Museum plays a pivotal role in the research and education field. The exhibition of objects, surveys in different areas of Balochistan, the works of researchers on the objects of Museum. The BSC Museum itself is an educational institution open for students, scholars, visitors and researchers. The objects of Museum covered the history, prehistory and proto history of region. The Museum objects collected from the excavation sites, survey, donations and collected from the door to door.

In spite of that the Museum of BSC has preserved the objects of Mehrgharh, KGM, Nall, and so on. The history of Museum goes back to Pliocene period, Neolithic period, Chalcolithic period, Iron Age and early Islamic period.

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## **Interviews**

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- Mehmood-ul-Hassan, Visiting Lecturer. TIAC, Islamabad. Age 50 Years. 5/5/2015.
- Wadera Abdul Razaq, Tribal sub-Chief. Barkhan. Age 45 Years. 1/4/2015.
- Muhammad Hassan Bangulzai, Caretaker of Zabad Museum Mastung. Age 50 years. 12/5/2016



Figure 1: Interior of BSC Museum



Figure 2: Fossils in BSC Museum



Figure 3: Microliths Stone Tools



Figure 4: Terracotta Bangles



Figure 5: variable Cultures of Balochistan





Figure 6: Human Figurines



Figure 7: Animal Figurines



Figure 8: Weight stones and Terracotta Pipes



Figure 9: Arabic and Persian Manuscripts



Figure 10 stone vessels and inscribed a Indus Bull on an object



Figure 11 Inscriptions on a potsherd

Figure 12 An Hand lock