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paper attempts to trace the origin of such depiction in art, and looks at its popularity among common people and the various circumstances which forced Buddhist clergy to allow such depictions in art in the places of religious importance. This paper intends to explore the above theme with reference to early Buddhist period between 3<sup>rd</sup> century B.C. to second half of the fourth century A.D. This period experienced rule of various dynasties like *Mauryan*, *Śunga*, *Sātavāhana*, *Kusāṇa* and *Ikṣvāku*s across the extent of India and witnessed various phases of socio-religious transformations.

## Beads beyond personal ornamentation: An understanding of beads found in Buddhist monastic contexts.

## Anura Manatunga.

Beads are one of the common items encountered by Archaeologists almost everywhere from the late Prehistory to the present society. It is very often thought that beads were parts of personal ornaments such as necklaces, waist bands, head dresses, ear rings, and garment accessories and so on. Moreover, beads were generally understood to be a part of female attire than that of males, hence the presence of beads was often seen as a gender marker in the archaeological contexts.

These presumptions about beads will be questioned in this paper in view of thousands and thousands of beads found in the Buddhist monastery sites in Anuradhapura and Polonnaruva. Sri Lanka. The fact that beads were utilized as architectural ornaments of monastic buildings and votive objects offered to the monasteries will be elaborated in this paper and it would suggest a reexamination of the discovery of beads in a more wider perspective than that of personal ornaments in other archaeological contexts as well.

Solapur Fort - An Archaeological Survey Vaijayanti Naiknavare M.A. (History) M.A. (Ancient Indian History and Culture) M.Phil. (History)Ph.D.

Jaywant Naiknavare M.D.

Solapur City is a border place between Nizamshahi of Ahmadnagar and Adilshahi of Bijapur in Medieval time. No definite information about Solapur is avaible for the early or Pre-historic period. Like other parts of the Deccan Solapur District must have formed part of the Kingdom of Satavahanas whose capital was Pratishthan and who ruled from