

Community education, culture resource management and India's prehistoric archaeological record

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Southern India has a rich heritage of prehistoric archaeological sites dating back to the Lower Palaeolithic phase (c. 1 myr B.P). However, rapid industrialization has resulted in the destruction of a large number of these sites. In this context, our excavations at the Palaeolithic site of Attirampakkam, Tamil Nadu, and explorations in Northern Tamil Nadu, have developed a component of culture resource management and salvage archaeology. A combination of field work and use of satellite remote sensing and GIS is being used to develop a database of sites, and to assess impacts on such sites/localities. Based on this data, a model is being developed as to effective ways in which sites may be protected. A range of methods suited to each individual site/locality is being proposed, keeping in mind local needs. For this purpose, community education is a key factor in generating an awareness of heritage issues. The paper discusses the principal aspects of this project.

Key words: Community education, Cultural resource management, Archaeology, GIS, Prehistory

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