

THE LOCATIONAL PATTERN OF EARLY HISTORIC SITES IN THE PLATEAU OF KANDY

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The main attempt in this study is to understand, factors responsible for the locational pattern of Early Historic sites. Our study falls within a chronological context of B.C. 3rd century to 3rd century A.D. Attention is focused on Brahmi inscription-bearing sites, drip-ledge caves and Early Historic temple sites.

This Plateau of Kandy is a link area for several other river valleys situated in hills. There are natural paths connecting these areas with each other. In the areas peripheral to the central valley, archaeological sites are situated along the banks of water courses. These routes were always used in history. The location of the ambalam (belonging to the Kandy period) often coincide with the same routes.

It is significant that these sites are situated near important economic mineral resources. Iron ore, copper, mica and mineral stones are such resources. The early inscriptions mention lapidary, metal smiths, merchants and guilds indicating craft and commercial activities in this region.

A study of the inscriptions indicate the existence of local chieftains who exercised their authority over resources and routes, and thereby had taken over the economic control associated with these settlements.

Some sites are situated near the narrow alluvial soil. Those settlements were obviously associated with agricultural activity to sustain other communities residing in less productive areas.