

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

PROJECT

Programme Name: “An Introduction to Archaeology”

CODE: HISSECO3M

REPORT

“An Introduction To Archaeology”

The Project “An Introduction To Archaeology” has been chosen from a pool of courses designed to provide value based or skill based knowledge. This is a special course involving application of knowledge in solving/analyzing/exploring situation. The project work aims at providing hands-on-training, competencies, skills, etc. 2 credits comprising 25 marks have been allotted for semester V general students.

The objective of the project is to emphasise the students that archaeology is a critical discipline, a product of enquiry, a way of knowing about the past, rather than just a collection of facts. The project helped them to understand the process through which archaeologists write about ancient past by choosing and assembling different types of evidences.

Throughout 2020 -2021, our college had to enforce strict lockdown measures and shut rooms to avoid spread of pandemic. The students could not actually reach the archaeological sites but participated in the project work whole heartedly. We managed to organize virtual weekly meetings and helped them to do the work utilizing internet, libraries, atlases, historical maps, photographs etc. The students had come to know about preliminary fieldwork, the different methods of finding archaeological sites, the tools used by the archaeologists, the modern devices used by them, how to keep records of the survey programs, keeping preliminary records which involves making a contour map, how to dig test holes called Sondages accompanied by maps and drawings of the site. They have also come to know that photographs and films also accompany the records of the archaeologists. The students have realized that in the mid to late 20th century archival recording has increasingly been done using computers, digitizing canvas and various other advanced devices. Students have also learnt about how to interpret archaeological finds which may be grouped into two broad categories—chronological analysis and contextual analysis. By observing videos they have come to know about the historical past which includes old coins, tools, buildings, inscriptions, art, private houses, objects of daily life.

The project work had a tremendous value as a tool that helped the students learn about our past and prepare a better future. It has enhanced the students’ responsibility to help preserve the archaeological legacy. Thus the goals of the project are to document and explain the origins and development of human

culture understand culture history, chronicle cultural evolution, and study human behaviour and ecology for both prehistoric and historic societies.