

Bitumen trade in Tepe Farukhabad, Dehloran

Khodakaram Mazaheri ¹
Jamal Sheikhi ²

Abstract

Dehloran plain is one of the fertile plains of Iran, which has been the focus of human societies since ancient times. Bitumen seep of Ein Ghir is one of the important natural resources of this plain. Bitumen has been extracted and produced on a large scale in the Dehloran plain due to its many useful features in the past. The purpose of this research is to explain the production process and trade of bitumen in Farukhabad Hill. The research method is based on documentary sources from previous studies, which have also used the results of recent field studies. Archeological findings show that Bitumen in Farukhabad Hill has been one of the important items that was produced from the Farukh to Early Dynastic Phases. The process of bitumen production in Farukhabad Hill can be divided into two stages: the first stage includes Farukh to Middle Uruk Phases, where bitumen production is at a low level and a small amount of it was exported, and an important part of it was consumed, the second phase of the Late Uruk, Jemdet Nasr, and Early Dynastic Phases. At this stage, noticeable changes occurred in the process of production and use of bitumen. The production of bitumen and its export increased noticeably and its local consumption decreased drastically. At the same time, in the Late Uruk period, large non-native buildings were erected, which were apparently the office spaces of workshops related to the production and trade of bitumen. Also, during this period, the scope of settlement in Farukhabad reached its maximum expansion. It seems that the increase in the need for bitumen led to the establishment of new groups in Farukhabad and more efforts to produce and export it to the desired centers. Probably, in the recent stage, we face to non-native specialists who have settled in Farukhabad and managed bitumen export.

Keywords: Farukhabad Hill, Dehloran, Bitumen trade, bitumen seep of Ein Gir.

1. Assistant Professor of Department of Archaeology, Ilam Branch, Islamic Azad university, Ilam, Iran, Corresponding Author.
2. Archaeologist, Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Organization of Ilam Province.