

discovery led to a big advance in the pattern of living. Even to this day, the wheel is necessary, whether it be for something as tiny as the wrist-watch or as large as the railway train. The invention of the wheel made life very much easier in a number of ways. For example, before the wheel came into use a man had to walk or ride from one place to another. Now, he could make a cart which was drawn by an animal, and more people could travel easily from one place to another. The wheel also helped to move heavy objects which could not be moved before. In addition, the use of the wheel improved the making of pottery.

**The Early Villages** Primitive men were now ready for more civilized living. The wandering groups now settled in one place, forming a village where they built huts for themselves, grew barley, rice or wheat and kept goats and other animals. These were the earliest villages or village communities. They were to be found all over India but more often in river valleys and on the flat plains, where the soil was more fertile and it was easier to grow crops. Archaeologists have found many remains of these villages, and from these "sites" as they are called we can describe the way in which primitive men lived.

The villages were small and the huts were close to each other. It was easier to defend the village from wild animals if everybody lived near each other. The area of the huts was probably surrounded either by a mud wall or by a fence of some prickly bush. The fields lay outside the fence. The village itself was usually built on slightly higher ground than the fields. The huts were thatched and ordinarily consisted of just one room. Poles were used to form a frame to which were attached branches and thatch. A fire was lit in the hut on which the cooking was done and round which the family slept at night.

Food was now cooked and not eaten raw. Meat was roasted over the fire. Grain was ground between two stones and the flour was made into bread. The extra grain was stored in large jars. Cooking required vessels in which to cook the food. These were made of clay (pottery) in earlier times, and later of metal. In the beginning clay pots were made by women who shaped the clay by hand into forms resembling round jars and bowls and plates