

CHAPTER VIII

MISCELLANEOUS OCCUPATIONS

In the earlier Chapters on Agriculture ; Industries ; and Banking, Trade, and Commerce ; the major sectors of economy were dealt with at length. But these sectors by themselves do not give the entire economic picture of the population. The people of the district are also engaged in miscellaneous occupations like public administration, teaching and legal professions, medicinal practice, and personal services. Those who are in administration or learned professions form the intellectual class and despite their small percentage exert maximum influence in all the affairs of the district. In domestic and personal services, the occupation of barbers, washermen, tailors, goldsmiths, blacksmiths, cooks, drivers, etc., are also essential for the society, and they constitute an important social group.

Both the educated and the uneducated people prefer jobs in the public administration departments because they get service security and other benefits. According to the Census of 1961, large number of persons were found employed in various branches of public administration. Their distribution is given below*.

Sl. No. (1)	Occupations (2)	Males (3)	Females (4)	Total (5)
1	Administrators and Executive Officials, Central Government.	77	..	77
2	Administrators and Executive Officials, State Government.	995	2	997
3	Administrators and Executive Officials, Local Bodies.	55	1	56
4	Administrators and Executive Officials, Quasi Government.	25	2	27
5	Village Officials	354	41	395
6	Administrators and Executive Officials, Government, not elsewhere classified.	101	..	101
Total		1,607	46	1,653

District Census Handbook, 1961, Puri, p. 122.

Besides providing dearness allowance, the State Government has made provision for granting festival advances and also loans for construction of residential buildings. Residential accommodation is provided for Government employees on reasonable rent. The Government also considers loan applications from its employees for the purchase of vehicles. Besides travelling allowance, Government servants and members of their families get facilities to reimburse the expenses incurred in connection with treatment of diseases. The employees of the Central Government as well as the corporations like the Life Insurance Corporation of India, the Food Corporation of India, etc., have their own schemes of allowance, leave, medical relief, provident fund, and gratuity.

Amenities
provided to
Government
Servants

Due to the implementation of the Five Year Plans there has been expansion in the public services at the Central and State Government level, and in the Local bodies. These employees have formed their respective unions with a view to get redress for their grievances. The State Government employees have formed number of unions and associations of which the Orissa State Non-Gazetted Employee's Co-ordination Committee is important. Employees of the local bodies and the panchayats have similar organisations in the district.

Employee's
Organisation

Teachers, lawyers, doctors, etc., are included under this profession.

LEARNED
PROFESSIONS

Teachers play a significant role in the social and cultural life of the district. They work in various educational institutions. In the year 1968-69, a total number of 9,771 teachers were engaged in the teaching profession. Out of the total number, 6,833 were engaged in Primary and Middle English schools, 1,904 in High and Higher Secondary schools, 608 in Colleges and 386 teachers in other educational institutions.

Teachers

Regarding the economic condition of the teachers it was found that the monthly salary income of the Primary school teachers who accounted for the largest number in this profession varied from Rs. 179 to 334. This amount was not sufficient to maintain a good standard of living. So most of them had to depend upon other sources of income. The monthly salary income of the High English school teachers ranged from Rs. 184 to 958. In addition to this some of them get remuneration as examiner, private tutor, etc. However, the income is more or less sufficient to maintain their family but insufficient to build up the future of the family members. Teachers in higher educational institutions are, however, in a better economic condition.

Lawyers

The number of persons engaged in the profession of law was 210 in 1973. They live in urban areas where courts are situated. They offer in civil and criminal cases for the clients. Whether the judgment is in favour of the client or not the client is required to pay the fees. The amount of the fees varies according to the nature of the case and the popularity of the lawyer who handles it.

There are four Bar Associations in the district located at Puri, Bhubaneswar, Khurda, and Nayagarh. The Khurda Bar Association is the oldest in the district. It was started in 1885. The Bar Association at Puri, Nayagarh, and Bhubaneswar were started in 1895, 1948, and 1959 respectively. The object of the formation of these associations was to preserve and promote the welfare of the Bar and also to provide amenities like library facilities to the members. The president, secretary, and other office bearers of these associations are elected annually from among the members.

Every lawyer has one or more clerks under him who are, in fact, litigation assistants and receive their remuneration from parties. Cases are brought to lawyers by persons known in the villages as touts. Wherever there is a dispute or possibility of a dispute the touts get to work, aggravate the dispute and take it to lawyers. 210 lawyers of Puri district have at least 210 clerks and there are over 1,000 touts to feed the litigation.

Doctors

Altogether 951 persons were engaged in medical and other health services in the year 1973. The break-up of these services is given below.

Occupations	Number of persons
Allopathic doctors	205
Ayurvedic doctors	31
Homeopathic doctors	39
Nurses	55
Health Visitors	62
Auxiliary Nurses and Mid-wives	178
Sanitary Inspectors	111
Paramedical workers	32
Vaccinators	116
Pharmacists	105
Other health technicians	17
Total	951

Besides the above government service holders, there are many more technical persons who are doing medical and health services privately.

The economic condition of the allopathic doctors, in general, is good, because besides the remuneration pertaining to their job, private practice also provides additional income. But the new entrants in this profession find it difficult to compete with the veterans in the profession. Moreover, Government policy of providing free medical treatment to the people at Government dispensaries, primary health centres, and hospitals are stated to be obstacles in the way of better economic prospects for private practitioners. There is keen competition among the members of this profession who generally prefer to settle in urban areas rather than in the villages.

The number of homoeopathic doctors has been on the increase since 1965 as the district has a homoeopathic college, a hospital, and 12 dispensaries. Their monthly salary depends upon their status, qualification and length of service, etc. There are also many private homoeopathic practitioners in the district, some of them earning a fair income.

The Ayurvedic profession is also gaining popularity due to the establishment of the Gopabandhu Ayurvedic college, two Ayurvedic hospitals, and 19 dispensaries in the district. Many Kavirajas also carry on private practice and have their own shops or dispensaries. The Kaviraj having name and fame and long experience in the profession usually earn more and maintain a better standard of living.

The 1961 Census returned 8,054 persons under Arts, Letters, and Science professions. The distribution of the profession is given below.*

Arts, Letters
and Science

Sl. No.	Occupations	Male	Female	Total
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
1.	Architects, Engineers and Surveyors ..	911	..	911
2.	Biologists, Veterinarians, Agronomists and related Scientists.	356	..	356
3.	Social Scientists and related workers ..	210	6	216
4.	Artists, Writers and related workers ..	561	113	674
5.	Draughtsman, and science and Engineering Technicians not elsewhere classified.	167	27	194
	Total	2,205	146	2,351

* District Census Handbook, 1961, Puri, pp. 120—123

[8 Rev.—43]

Most of the persons belonging to these categories have been employed in various institutions at Bhubaneshwar where there are 2 Universities, 3 first-grade colleges, the State Secretariat, the Heads of Departments and other technical institutions of the State and Central Government.

These statistics throw light on the developmental activities achieved by the district which require the services of architects, engineers, draughtsmen, etc., in large numbers. Like other learned professions, these professions are also equally lucrative. The monthly salary income of those in government works varied according to their qualification, status and length of service. Those who were employed by private firms also earned a decent income and maintained a good standard of living.

The demand for artists, writers and related workers is less, because of the nature of their work which is purely cultural. Their existence in the society depends upon the persons who are interested in art and culture. The monthly income of an artist, writer, etc., depends upon their status and the quality of their work, etc.

The developmental activities during the successive Five-Year Plans have considerably raised the demand for the services of the biologists, veterinarians, agronomists and related scientists in the field of agriculture, irrigation, veterinary services, etc.

Social scientists and related workers comprise economists, accountants, etc. They occupy good social position and their demand is growing due to industrial and commercial development in the district.

Domestic
and Personal
Services

This profession includes the services of domestic servants, barbers, washermen, tailors, etc. In course of time these professions have undergone noticeable changes with the changing economic pattern of the society.

Domestic
Servants

Cooks, bearers (domestic and institutional) and other indoor servants are included in this class. They numbered 1,346 in 1961. As many as 551 persons (477 males and 74 females) out of them were living in the urban areas. Their number has considerably increased by now due to the rapid growth and expansion of Bhubaneshwar. Their wage rates are not attractive when compared to other occupations but they enjoy the benefit of free fooding and clothing in addition to their wages. Those who are not given food,

clothings and shelter get a higher rate of wages. Many middle class families engage servants on a part-time basis for attending to various routine domestic work.

This is the traditional occupation of the barbers. In rural areas the barber moves from door to door with his small wooden box or cloth bag which contains all the necessary instruments for hair-cutting and shaving. Some of the villagers even today pay him in kind. According to the 1961 Census, there were 2,906 (2,773 males and 133 females) barbers, hair-dressers, beauticians and related workers. Of this total number, 1,166 persons were living in the urban areas. Some of these persons maintain hair-cutting saloons in different localities of the town which are mostly proprietary concerns. Majority of the proprietors hire a room and pay a monthly rent which may vary from Rs. 15 to Rs. 100 or more. But in towns like Puri, Jatni and Khurda and in Bhubaneswar city large establishments employ salaried workers. The monthly income of an establishment may vary from Rs. 150 to Rs. 750. On occasions like *upanayan*, marriage and funeral, the services of a barber is essential. On these occasions he and his wife are suitably remunerated. Hair-cutting

According to the Census of 1961, there were 6,513 launderers, dry-cleaners and pressers, of whom 2,975 were males and 3,538 females. Their strength in urban areas was 1,859 which comprised 1,623 males and 236 females. A good number of laundries are found in Puri and Bhubaneswar, but such establishments are few in other towns. Majority of these are family concerns where the owners with the help of the members of the their family carry on the business. Big establishments employ a few workers on monthly payment basis. The majority of the laundries are housed in rented wooden cabins or buildings. The rent may vary from Rs. 20 to 150 per month depending upon the condition and the locality of the rented room. Laundry

Generally the poor people do not give their clothes to the laundries. Some middle class people wash their clothes at home and at times get them ironed in the laundries. Thus they save some money. The launderers receive payment according to the number of pieces washed. At present the charges being 20 to 25 paise per every cotton dress, and Rs. 1.00 to 1.50 for terry-cotton or terrylene dress. The laundries also charge double for urgent delivery of the clothes. They charge more for costly garments. The earnings of the laundries which deal in dry-cleaning of clothes are higher. The earnings of the establishments vary according to the volume of business done. Generally the income ranges from Rs. 100 to Rs. 500 per month.

Tailoring

This category of service is done by men and women irrespective of caste and creed. Tailoring is attracting a considerable number of persons in urban areas and consequently many tailoring shops are being established in all the towns of the district. In 1961, 643 persons were enumerated as tailors, dress makers and garment makers. In most of these establishments the members of the family or the relatives of the tailors are engaged. Small boys do minor work like fixing buttons, repairing of garments, etc. Large concerns employ more workers. The tailors of Pipli specialise in applique work and prepare beautiful canopies, *batua*, bags, flags, umbrellas and fans for the deities by using cloths of red, black, white, green and yellow colours. It is a hereditary craft of the tailors of this region. The applique umbrellas prepared at Pipli have now found a good market both in India and outside. In foreign countries many use them in the garden or in the sea beach. The monthly income of a tailoring shop was estimated to vary from Rs. 200 to 800. Their transaction increases business during marriage and other festive occasions.

Cycle Repairing

Most of the people use bicycle because it is cheap and handy. To keep the cycle in running condition there is a greater demand for cycle repairing shops, and their number in urban areas is more than the rural areas. In order to maintain a shop the owner usually engages one or two boys to help him in his workshop. The owner pays Rs. 30 to 90 per month to each boy and a rent of about Rs. 15 to 60 for the shop. His income consists of the repair charges and the profit on spare parts sold. Hiring of bicycles is gradually gaining popularity in the district. At Khurda a few cycle shops hire out bicycles for a short period and charge at the rate of one rupee per day. Some of the bicycle repairing shops also keep petromax and pressure lamps for hiring out for which they charge from Rs. 2 to 4 per petromax for a night's use.

Betel Shops

There are a good number of Betel shops in the district. These shops are run largely on proprietorship basis. Most of these shops sell additional items like perfumery, cigarettes, *bidis*, confectionery, candles, aerated water and other articles as well. They are mostly housed in rented premises and small wooden cabins. The monthly income of these establishments depend upon the size of the shop and the locality in which they are situated.

Tea Stall

During the last three decades drinking of tea has become very popular in villages and towns, because it provides stimulation with less money. Tea stalls are coming up like mushrooms in every

corner of the district, but no enumeration of these stalls are yet undertaken. Due to scarcity of milk the tea stalls are also using milk powder for preparing tea and coffee. The high price of milk and sugar has raised the price of tea and coffee. In 1974, these stalls charged Re. 0.15 to 0.30 for a cup of tea; and Re. 0.30 to 0.75 for a cup of coffee according to their quality. Some tea stalls sell refreshments like *bara*, *piaji*, *singada*, *nimki*, *pakodi* and sweetmeats. The monthly income of these establishments depend upon the size of the stall and the locality in which they are situated. Usually the stalls located in the urban areas earn more. In order to maintain a stall the owner generally engages one or two boys to help in serving the customers and in washing the utensils. Their monthly pay varies from Rs. 15 to 45. Most of these employees are also provided with food and lodging by the employers.

There are a number of Kansari families in Balakati, Bhainchua, Nayagarh, Khandapara and Kantilo. Besides the Kansaris, the Kharuras are also engaged in bell-metal industry. They make household utensils of brass and bell-metal, and earn a fair income by exporting to other places and by local sale.

Brass and
Bell-metal

The cobblers or Mochis are found mostly in the urban areas but their number is more at Puri, Bhubaneshwar, Jatni and Khurda. They usually repair old and worn-out footwears. They also undertake shoe polishing and repair of other leather articles. The cobblers at Puri are famous for making lady's fancy hand-bags and beautiful footwears using goat, ram, snake, deer or tiger skins. The unskilled cobblers usually earn from Rs. 4 to Rs. 6 per day, whereas the daily income of a skilled one is more.

Cobblers

Fishing is an important occupation of a section of the people of the district. According to the Census of 1961, 8,736 persons were engaged as fishermen and related workers. Deep sea fishing is carried on by the Telugu settlers called the Nolias who are mostly found in Puri, Nuagaon, Arakhakuda, Khirisai, Sahadi, Ramlenka and Manikapatna. With small gill nets or hooks and lines the Nolias go to a distance of two or four kilometres in the sea in catamarans. From the sea (Bay of Bengal), Chilka lake, rivers, and village tanks the fishermen catch fish. Besides local consumption, fish is exported to different places of India and to foreign countries.

Fishing

Laterite stones are found in large quantities in and around Bhubaneshwar, Khurda and Jatni. Due to low cost and

Stone
Workers

availability, the local people prefer stone to brick for building houses. The stone cutter in the quarry gets ten to fifteen paise for cutting one block of stone. On an average, a stone cutter earns Rs. 5 to Rs. 7 per day. For dressing and setting one hundred stone blocks of different sizes, the charges vary from Rs. 40 to 50 (cement and sand charges are excluded).

Quality stones for the construction of roads and buildings are also available at Tapang and Kalupara Ghat. A large number of people are engaged for breaking the stones into small pieces. They get daily wages or are paid on contract basis. The daily income of an employee of this category usually varies from Rs. 5 to Rs. 7.50. The people of these areas also make *chaki*, *sila*, *chandan pedi* and other stone articles for sale in the local market and at the railway stations.

There are some families of stone carvers in Puri, Haladia, Ghatikia Narangarh and other places in the district. They generally work in soap-stone obtained from Dampara in Cuttack district, and sandstone. The statues made by them in the model of the temple sculptures of Puri, Bhubaneshwar and Konarak are popular among the art loving customers. Occasionally, they work in pot-stone obtained from the Nilgiri hills near Balasore. All the adult members of a stone carver's family are usually engaged in the business. The income of a stone carver is about Rs. 10 per day.

Patta Paintings

There is a concentration of families of village painters or *chitrakaras* in the village Raghurajpur, near Puri. They are engaged in this indigenous craft, producing decorative and ritual items in typical Orissan style. These paintings are usually based on the themes drawn from the Hindu mythology and the Puranas, and are masterpieces of brilliant strokes of brush. The craft has a hoary antiquity.

Blacksmiths

Iron smelting and the manufacture of iron articles are chiefly done by persons belonging to the Kamar caste. They manufacture domestic and agricultural implements. According to the Census of 1961, there were 1,231 (1,220 males and 11 females) persons who were working as blacksmiths, hammersmiths and forgemen.

Carpenters

The carpenters, joiners, cabinet makers, coopers, and related workers numbered 3,105 in the 1961 Census. They make and repair wooden furniture, windows, doors, carts, wheels, ploughs, and other domestic articles. Usually a carpenter is remunerated to the extent of rupees six to eight per day depending upon the nature of work.

A few wood carvers of Puri and Khandapara prepare wooden and *papier-mache* masks. Wooden masks are used by the folk opera parties for producing mythological plays. Generally the masks are made of light drift wood and painted with bright colours. They sell the products mostly during the fairs and festivals and also in the local market. The income they derive out of this business is not sufficient to support their families.

Wood Carvers

Basket-making is customarily done by persons belonging to both the Dom and the Haddi caste. They are scattered throughout the district, and are engaged in manufacturing various kinds of articles such as *odara, gauni, chancha, tati, baja, pedi, petara, beta, dala, kula, pakhia, jhampi, binchana, polua*, etc., and the materials used in basketry are cane, bamboo, palm leaves, date leaves, etc. They sell their products in the local market and maintain their families with the scanty income thus obtained. The 1961 Census enumerated 7,608 (2,855 males and 4,753 females) persons as basket weavers and related workers in the district. Their present strength is not known.

Basket-making

Generally the people belonging to the Tanti and Patara caste of Khurda and Nayagarh subdivision depend upon weaving & spinning for their livelihood. The Panas also earn their livelihood by weaving. They manufacture cheap cotton and staple articles like *sari, lungi, gamchha, chadar*, and also weave *tussar* cloth. These cotton fabrics are very much in demand in local markets. The *tussar* clothes are also transported to Puri, Cuttack and other distant places. Weaving is carried on as an organised industry and is found to have been adopted by some agricultural families too. When the yarn is purchased the women and children do the winding and warping and assist in other works. It is estimated that a family which uses the ordinary type of loom earns on the average Rs. 10 to Rs. 12 per day. Most of the looms are of antique design, but attempts have been made to encourage the use of the flyshuttle loom and to grow cotton locally through the co-operative societies. According to the 1961 Census, there were 15,682 (6,513 males and 9,169 females) spinners, weavers, knitters, dyers and related workers in the district. Their number is on the increase as the trade is making head-way and flourishing.

Weaving and Spinning

Pottery is an age-old industry still surviving in the rural and urban areas of the district. This is the traditional occupation of the people belonging to Kumbhar caste. At present the wide use of plastic, aluminium and other metal vessels has greatly affected this occupation. But daily use of huge number of earthen vessels in the temples of Puri, Bhubaneshwar and other places is continuing despite modern impact.

Potters

The potter works with his potter's wheel and prepares earthenware vessels and takes them to the nearby village or town and sells them. Some of the potters also manufacture country tiles. Most of the people still use the earthenware vessels for cooking food, storing water and foodgrains. Usually the potter carries on the work with the help of his family members in his own house. The only raw material required for this work is fine clay. Availability of clay in the vicinity reduces the cost of transport and the price of the articles too. A few potters in Puri and Bhubaneshwar maintain carts to bring clay and to take finished earthenware products to the temples and markets. It is difficult to estimate the daily income of a potter's family. On a rough estimate, it may be Rs. 3 to Rs. 8 per day. According to the Census of 1961, there were 2809 potters and related clay formers in the district.

Religious
Workers

The ordained religious workers, non-ordained religious workers, astrologers, palmists and related workers numbered 5,184 in the Census of 1961. Of the total number 358 persons were astrologers, palmists and related workers. There are also a good number of pilgrim guides in the district. At Bhubaneshwar, the Badus act as priests (Pandas) to visitors and pilgrims. They arrange the boarding and lodging of their clients (Jejmans) in addition to the ritual performances in different sacred spots. Previously the Badus owned all the pilgrim estates now owned by the Mahasuaras. The latter usually assisted the Badu by meeting the pilgrims who arrived by ferry at Baliaanta and guided them to Bhubaneshwar. In course of time they seized by force the rights of the Badus over many of the pilgrims and began to serve them as their priests.

Similarly at Puri the Pandas and Pariharis (Sans. Pratihari) of the temple have monopolised this business. They engage agents mostly Brahmins and sometimes Bhandaris and Gaudas, and depute them to different parts of India in order to recruit pilgrims two or three months before the beginning of the principal festivals like Dola and Ratha Jatra. These agents are known as *batuas* (journeymen) in Oriya. They visit the chief towns and villages of their circle carrying with them *nirmalya*, i. e., half boiled and sun-dried rice offering to Lord Jagannath, and *mahaprasad*, i. e., fully boiled rice, sweetmeats, etc. This sacred food they offer to the people whom they visit and draw their attention to the great temple, the miraculous power of Lord Jagannath and the holy city by describing their glory in glowing languages. After consultations with the members of the family and neighbours they collect money for the journey. Before the beginning of the principal festivals the pilgrims leave home under the guidance of the Pandas' Agent,

generally in a party of five to twenty persons. The priests usually lodge the pilgrims in the licensed lodging houses, arrange for a supply of daily food from the temple, and depute men to show them the sacred places. They also perform the due ceremonies with the least inconvenience possible. Sums from five to one thousand rupees are realised in this way from each head of family and are appropriated by the priests

The rapid development of road transport in recent years brought about the growth of a class of workers, viz., drivers, conductors and cleaners. In 1973, 4,018 persons were engaged in driving bus, taxi, truck, privately owned cars and heavy vehicles. **Drivers**

There were 3,121 cycle rickshaw pullers or drivers plying rickshaw on hire or as paid employees for transporting passengers and light goods in the year 1973. Their number is more in Bhubaneswar and Puri than other urban areas of the district.

Apart from these, there are persons plying bullock-carts or other animal drawn vehicles. The number of persons following this occupation was 1,245 in 1973.

The Orissa Shops and Commercial Establishments Act of 1956 is in force in Puri, Bhubaneswar, Khurda and Nayagarh town of the district. The Labour Officers visit the shops and establishments in these places to find out whether the workers employed therein are properly paid, given holidays and have fixed working hours. They also look to the safety, health and welfare of the workers. At the end of December, 1973, there were 592 shops and commercial establishments in four towns of the district, namely, Puri, Bhubaneswar, Khurda and Nayagarh. A total number of 2,035 workers were in employment in these establishments.

**Employment
in Shops and
Establishments**