

CHAPTER VIII

MISCELLANEOUS OCCUPATIONS

In the chapters on Agriculture and Irrigation, 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, legal, medical and personal services. Those who are in administration or learned profession form the intellectual class and despite their small percentage, exert maximum influence in the affairs of the district. In domestic and personal services the occupation of barber, washermen, tailors, drivers, etc., are also essential for the society and they constitute an important social group.

Public Administration

Both the educated and the uneducated people prefer jobs in public administration departments because they get service security and other benefits. The Statistical Abstract of 1991 shows the employment situation in various branches of public administration. The table below gives the number of employees of the Central Government, State Government, Quasi government undertakings and local bodies of the district in 1989*.

Employees in Public Sector				Local Bodies	Total
Central Government	State Government	Quasi Government			
(1)	(2)	Central	State	(5)	(6)
4648	19506	1291	1291	653	27389

*Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Orissa, Bhubaneswar.

Amenities provided to Government Servants

Besides providing dearness allowance, the State Government have made provision for granting festival advance and also loans for construction of residential buildings. Residential accommodation is provided to Government employees on reasonable rent as far as possible or house rent allowance in lieu thereof. The Government also considers loan applications from its employees for 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. Besides, the government employees are provided with Group Insurance facility since 1976 in case of untimely death during the service period. The scheme is intended to alleviate the financial hardship caused to the bereaved family of government servants, whether temporary or permanent, in regular establishments. The employees of 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, gratuity, etc.

Employees' Organisation

Due to implementation of five-year plans there has been considerable expansion in the public services at Central and State Government level, and in the local bodies. These employees have formed their respective unions with a view to redressing their grievances. The State Government employees have formed a number of unions and associations of which the Orissa State Non-gazetted Employees' Co-ordination Committee is important. Employees of local bodies have similar organisations in the district.

Learned Professions

Teachers, lawyers, doctors, etc., are included under this profession. Teachers contribute immensely in vitalizing the cultural and social life of the district. They work in various academic institutions.

In 1988-89, a total number of 7319 teachers were engaged in primary schools, 4038 in Middle schools, 4345 in Secondary schools and 1190 in colleges for general education.

Regarding the economic condition of the teachers it was found that the monthly salary income of the Primary teachers varied from Rs. 940 to Rs. 1463. 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 High English school

teachers ranged from Rs. 1170 to Rs. 2265. In addition, some of them get remuneration as examiners, private tutors, etc. Teachers in higher educational institutions are, however, financially better placed.

Lawers

The number of legal practioners in the district was 535 in 1989. They generally reside in urban areas where law courts are located. They offer their services in civil, revenue and criminal cases to their clients. The amount of fees charged by the lawers varies according to the nature of the case and popularity and competency of the lawer who handles it.

There are three Bar Associations in the district at Baleshwar, Bhadrak and Nilagiri. The Baleshwar Bar Association is the oldest in the district as it started almost a century ago. Bhadrak Munsif court was started in 1901 while the Nilagiri court was of recent origin. The object of formation of Bar Associations is to preserve and promote the welfare of the member and also to provide amenities like library facilities to the members. The President, Secretary and other office bearers are elected annually from among the members.

Doctors

During 1985-86, altogether 1,554 persons were engaged in medical and other professions relating to human health. The break up of these services is given below.

Allopathic Doctors	180
Ayurvedic Dotcors	187
Homeopathic Doctors	318
Radiographers	Nil
Laboratory Technicians	38
Pharmacists	95
Nurses	61
Lady Health Visitors	70
Auxiliary Nurse Midwives	361
Sanitary Inspectors	69
Paramedical Workers	94
Vaccinators	81
Total	1554

Besides the above government service holders, there are many technical and non-technical persons who are doing private practice.

There are 29 Ayurvedic dispensaries and 38 homoeopathic dispensaries functioning in the district during 1987. Due to its low-cost medicines, homoeopathic system is popular among the people. There are also many private homoeopathic practitioners in the district, some of them earning a good income.

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 in the society.

Domestic servants

Cooks, bearers (domestic and institutional) and maid servants are included in this class. They numbered 693 in 1961. As many as 144 persons out of them were living in urban areas. These number must have been considerably increased by now due to the growth of industrial townships near important urban areas like Baleshwar and Bhadrak. Their wage rates are not attractive 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 higher rate of wages. Many middle class families engage servants on a part-time basis for attending to various routine domestic works.

Hair-cutting

This is the traditional occupation of the Bhandari caste. In rural areas, the barber moves from door to door with his small wooden box or cloth bag which contains the necessary instruments for hair-cutting and shaving. The practice of paying him in kind is still prevalent in some villages according to the old *jajamani* system. However, their number is dwindling rapidly owing to spread of self-shaving with safty razors even in rural areas. As a result barbers, as a traditional occupational groups, have shifted to other occupations. In 1986, there were 126 saloons functioning in the urban areas of the district. Each saloon generally employed one or two persons. In small towns, the income of the barber varies from Rs. 20 to Rs. 30 per day while in big towns like Baleshwar and Bhadrak the average daily income varies between Rs. 50 to Rs. 100.

Laundry

This occupation is mostly confined to the Dhobi caste. A good number of laundries are found in Baleshwar and Bhadrak but such establishments are few in other towns. Majority of these are family concerns where the owners with the help of members of 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. In 1985-86, a total number of 91 laundries were operating in the urban areas of the district.

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. The launderers receive payment according to the number of pieces washed. At present the charges vary from 50 to 60 paise for a cotton dress, Re. 1.00 to Rs. 1.50 for a synthetic dress, and they charge more for costly garments. The earning of the laundries which deal in dry-cleaning of woolen garments are higher. The income of the establishments vary according to the volume of business done.

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 more tailoring shops are being located in the town areas of the district. In 1985-86, a total number of 405 tailoring shops were catering to the needs of the urban population in the district. The income of the tailoring shops vary according to the strength of the establishments. The business goes on well during the marriage season and some religious festivals.

Cycle repairing

At present a large number of people use bicycles in their day-to-day life. To keep the cycle in running condition, repairing shops have been opened throughout the district. In urban areas the repairing shops are found in large numbers. In order to maintain a shop the owner-mechanic usually appoints one or two young boys to help him in his workshop. Their income varies from Rs. 200/- to Rs. 300/- per month. The owner's income consists of the repair charges and profit on spare parts sold. Some big cycle-repairing units in Baleshwar and Bhadrak towns earn more than Rs. 1000/- per month. Some of the bicycle-repairing shops also give petromax lights on hiring. They usually charge Rs. 10 to Rs. 15 per petromax for a night's use. In 1985-86, 367 cycle-repairing units were functioning in the urban areas of the district.

Betel Shop

There are a good number of betel shops in the district run on proprietorship basis. Most of these shops also sell additional items like perfumes, cigarettes, *bidis*, confectionery, candles, aerated water and other articles. They are mostly housed in rented premises and small wooden cabins. There are large number of betel shops in urban areas like Baleshwar, Bhadrak, Soro, Nilagiri, Chandbali, Basudebpur and Jaleshwar. In 1985-86, there were 1161 shops in the urban areas of the district.

Tea stall

Drinking tea has become very common among the people. Tea stalls are coming up in every corners of the district. No enumeration of these stalls has yet been undertaken. Due to scarcity of fresh milk tea stalls are also using milk powder for preparing tea. The high price of milk and sugar has raised the price of tea and coffee. In 1986 these stalls charged Re. 0.50 for a cup of tea and Re. 0.75 to Re. 1.00 for a cup of coffee according to their quality. Some tea stalls also sell light refreshments. The monthly income of these establishments depend upon the size of the stall and the locality in which they are situated. The stalls located in urban areas usually earn more. In order to maintain a stall the owner generally engages one or two boys to help in serving the customers and washing the utensils. Their monthly pay varies from Rs. 30/- to Rs. 75/-. Most of these employees are also provided with food and lodging by the employers. In 1985-86, a total number of 482 tea stalls were functioning in the urban areas of the district.

Brass and Bell-metal workers

There are a number of *Thatari* families in Remuna and Kumada who are engaged in brass and bell-metal industry. They make house-hold utensils of brass and bell-metal and earn a fair income by exporting to other places and by local sale.

Cobblers

The cobblers (Mochis) are found mostly in urban areas like Baleshwar and Bhadrak. They usually repair old and worn-out footwears. They also undertake shoe polishing and repair of the leather articles. The cobblers at Bhadrak and Baleshwar also make cheap foot-wears. The unskilled cobblers usually earn from Rs. 15/- to Rs. 20/- per day, whereas the daily income of skilled ones is more.

Fishing

Fishing is an important occupation of a section of the people of the district. A small fishing port has been constructed at Dhamara. Deep sea fishing is carried on at Churamani in Basudebpur and Balaramgarhi near Chandipur. The traditional fishermen belong to Gokha, Keuta and Dewar castes. Besides, persons belonging to other castes are also found to be engaged in fishing business. Now-a-days fishing has become lucrative due to introduction of modern equipments specially on the sea. The catches from the district are regularly exported to neighbouring districts and also to Calcutta market in West Bengal.

Stone Workers

Laterite stones are found in large quantities in and around Nilagiri police-station area. Due to low-cost and easy availability the local people prefer stone to brick for building houses. The stone cutters in the quarry get twenty to twenty-five paise for cutting one block of stone. On an average the stone cutter presently earns Rs. 15/- to Rs. 20/- per day. For dressing and setting one hundred stone blocks of different sizes, the charges vary from Rs. 50/- to Rs. 60/-.

Quality stones for the construction of roads and buildings are also available in the district. Hundreds of people are engaged in breaking stones into small pieces. They get daily wages or paid on contract basis. The daily income of an employee of this category in 1985-86 usually varies from Rs. 10 to Rs. 15.

There are some families of stone-carvers in Baulagadia and other adjacent villages in Nilagiri police-station. All the adult members of a stone-carver's family are usually engaged in this business. They make *chaki*, *sila*, *pathuri* and other household appliances for sale in local markets and at different places where big fairs are held.

Radio-repairing

In 1985-86, there were 186 radio-repairing shops functioning in the district. These shops mostly provide employment to one or two people with a good income.

Cycle-rickshaw driving

Driving cycle-rickshaw provides livelihood to a number of people belonging to the weaker section of the society. In towns rickshaw provides easy and cheap transport to the people. In 1985-86, there were 642 rickshaw-pullers earning their livelihood in the towns of Bhadrak, Jaleswar, Basudebpur and Soro.

Bullock cart driving

Bullock cart is a popular mode of transportation in the rural areas. However, even in towns some people are engaged in bullock cart driving to eke out a living. In 1985-86, in the towns like Jaleswar, Basudebpur, Bhadrak and Soro, there were 105, 11, 20 and 8 bullock cart drivers respectively.

Potters

Pottery is an age-old industry in the district. This is the traditional occupation of the people belonging to the Kumbhar caste. At present the wide use of plastic, aluminium and other metals have greatly affected this occupation. But use of earthen vessels in the urban and rural households as well as in the places of worship is continuing despite the modern impact. The potter works with his wheel and prepares earthenware vessels and takes them to the near by village or town for sale. Some of the potters also manufacture country tiles. The potters in the Chandbali region produce Chilam for smoking Ganja in large quantities which is popular both in and outside the district. Most of the people still use the earthenware for cooking food, storing water and food grains. Usually the potter carries on the work with the help of his family members in his own house. Availability of the main raw material, i.e., clay in the vicinity reduces the cost of transport and price of the articles too. It is difficult to estimate the daily income of a potter's family. On a rough estimate, it may be Rs. 10 to Rs. 15 per day.

Automobile repairing workers

With increasing use of automobiles, especially in towns, repairing shops are coming up to do the maintenance service to the vehicles. A good number of people are earning their livelihood out of it. Generally two to three people work in small repairing shops while in bigger ones five to eight people are engaged. In 1985-86, there were 100 automobile repairing shops in the urban areas of the district.

Employment in shops and commercial establishments

The Orissa Shops and Commercial Establishments Act of 1956 is in force in Baleswar, Soro and Jaleswar towns of the district. The labour officers visit the shops and other commercial 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, 1985, there were 752 shops and commercial establishments in three towns of the district, namely, Baleswar, Soro and Jaleswar. A total number of 2,180 workers were in employment in these establishments.