

CHAPTER VIII

MISCELLANEOUS OCCUPATIONS

110.A majority of the population of Balangir district are dependent on agriculture and only a small percentage pursue non-agricultural occupation as means of their livelihood. The Census of 1961 revealed that of the total population of 1,068,686 as many as 401,907 are mainly dependent on agriculture. This figure includes both cultivators and agricultural labourers. They constitute 28.8 per cent and 8.9 per cent respectively.

Out of the total population, 0.2 per cent are working in mining, quarrying, livestock and forestry, fishing, plantation orchards and allied activities and 3.9 per cent at household industry. There are 0.1 per cent of people in manufacturing other than household industry. The number of people engaged in construction works is negligible. In trade and commerce 0.6 per cent, in transport, storage and communication 0.2 per cent, and in other services 5.5 per cent of people are employed. Besides, there are 51.8 per cent of the total population who are economically passive having no income of their own and are entirely dependent on other resources. Children, full-time students, old men, women, beggars and vagrants mostly constitute this class.

The following table shows the number of female workers per 1,000 male workers in each category.

Name of occupations	Number of female worker per 1,000 male workers
Cultivators	425
Agricultural labourers	490
In mining, quarrying, livestock, forestry, fishing, plantation, orchards and allied activities.	349
At household industry	890
In manufacturing other than household industry.	208
In construction	89
In Trade and Commerce	671
In Transport, Storage and Communication	31
In other services	632

The Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribe people engaged in different occupations is shown as below:

TABLE 1

Name of category	Scheduled Caste		Scheduled Tribe	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Cultivation ..	26,351	13,682	46,666	20,925
Agricultural Labourer ..	15,384	8,188	15,328	7,940
Mining, quarrying, livestock, forestry, fishing, plantation, orchards and allied activities.	195	207	99	84
Household Industry ..	5,184	3,653	2,024	2,199
Manufacturing other than household industry.	135	33	78	28
Construction ..	182	49	52	1
Trade and Commerce ..	287	374	87	254
Transport, Storage and Communication.	236	15	53	..
Other services ..	9,954	8,071	6,001	5,905

It has been observed that among the Scheduled Castes and Tribes artisan classes such as barbers, oilmen, carpenters, washermen and the like are not generally found. The hill man has a few wearing apparels and so he does not require a washerman. Hair dressing is done by a helping hand. In his society money is scarce and to purchase the services of others is not easy for him.

111. Public Administration

(i) Union Government Employment

Prior to the inauguration of the D. B. K. Railway, almost all the Union Government employees were of one service, i. e. the Post and Telegraphs. With the opening of the Project the number of Central Government employees swelled. They are bound by the same service conditions which are common throughout India. According to 1961 Census, there were 468 employees who were administrators and executive offices under the Central Government.

(ii) State Government Employment

The persons employed under the State Government enjoy certain amenities and privileges according to the condition of service, which are shared by their compeers in other districts of the State. The clerical staff in the Collectorate are known as Ministerial Officers. There is an organisation of the clerical staff called Ministerial Officers, Association which looks after difficulties of its members. This Association is the District Branch of an All-Orissa Organisation of the same name. Besides, there are many different departments such as Police, Excise, Community Development, Commercial Tax, etc.

Many of the gazetted and non-gazetted officers are provided with Government quarters on payment of a reasonable rent fixed according to pay. According to 1961 Census, there were 132 employees who were administrators and executive officers of the State Government.

(iii) Local Self-Government Employment

There are three types of Local Self-Government bodies in the district, which have been discussed elaborately in Chapter XIV. They are — (1) Zilla Parishad, which has replaced the old District Boards
2) Municipalities, Notified Area Councils and Panchayat Samitis and
3) Grama Panchayats.

112. Legal Practice

This category of occupation generally includes the persons associated with the administration of law. Most of the lawyers are stationed at Balangir and at Sonepur. According to 1961 Census, there were 136 persons in legal profession among whom were included Judges, Magistrates, Advocates and petition writers.

113. Medical Practice

There has been rapid increase in the number of persons following this profession. Of the qualified medical practitioners only a few are private practitioners living in urban areas specially at Balangir and Titilagarh. According to 1961 Census, there were 117 persons having medical practice, out of whom 77 followed Ayurvedic system.

According to 1961 Census, there were 190 compounders in the district. Most of them were Government employees and retired persons.

114. Teachers

There has been a considerable increase in the number of persons engaged in educational service in the district. This is a result of the increasing provision of educational facilities through Sevasram Schools and Secondary, Middle and Primary Schools. More attention is now paid to technical education. It is found that more and more ladies

are entering into teaching profession. According to 1961 Census there were 2,485 persons in this profession out of whom 19 were lecturers, 113 were Secondary School teachers, and 2,039 were middle and primary school teachers.

115. Men of Arts, Letters and Science

Different types of persons are included under this broad category. They are musicians, singers, dancers, actors, authors, editors, journalists, architects, engineers, surveyors, artists and social scientists. The following table gives the number of persons following different avocations of this class as principal means of livelihood.

TABLE 2

Number of persons engaged in Arts, Letters and Science (1961 Census)

Name of occupation	Total workers		Urban areas	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Architects, engineers and surveyors	74	..	54	..
Social Scientists	..	2	6	2
Artists, writers and related workers	63	5	23	3

116. Priests, Astrologers and Palmists

Religion has been a full-time occupation and the main source of income for some persons, among whom the most numerous are the priests. The priests conduct worship and perform rites in accordance with religious scriptures and recognised practices in temple, church or mosque. They are called Poojari, Padre and Imam according to faith or denomination to which they belong. The non-ordained religious persons assist the ordained ones in conducting worship and perform rites on occasions like marriage and death. Among the Hindus, there are several persons who practise the art of astrology and palmistry. The astrologers prepare horoscopes of persons showing aspects of stars at the time of birth and interpret horoscope to tell past events in their lives and predict future. The palmists interpret lines and other symbols on palms of persons. They also practise the art of fortune telling from facial signs and prepare talismen, charms, etc. According to 1961 Census, there were 415 persons who were following this profession.

117. Fishermen

The fishermen, known as Keutas, catch fish in rivers and tanks by using different types of fishing implements and laying nets in water.

The Keutas of Sonepur also ply boats in the Mahanadi for earning livelihood. There were 1,193 persons in the district who were following this occupation.

118. Drivers

The chauffeurs drive motor cars according to owner's requirement as paid employees. There are also a few taxis plying in the district. The bus-drivers drive omnibus to transport passengers. They are experienced in driving at night over long distance and are able to do running repairs. The truck-drivers transport goods. There were 212 persons working in this occupation.

There were 63 cycle-rickshaw pullers plying rickshaws on hire or as paid employees for transporting passengers and light goods. They were working mostly in urban areas.

Besides, there are a few persons plying carriages or carts or other vehicles drawn by animals. According to 1961 Census, the number of persons following this occupation was 148. There are a few Doli or Palki bearers who carry palanquines or Doli on shoulders in groups of two or more, for transporting one or more persons.

119. Tailors

This category of service is done by men irrespective of caste and creed. Tailoring is attracting a number of persons in urban areas and consequently many tailoring shops are being established in Balangir, Sonepur and Titilagarh. In majority of the shops the owners with one or two relatives carry on the work. The occupation provides whole-time employment.

The value of business done daily varies from Rs. 5 to Rs. 20 according to the size of the shops. During the marriage season and other festive occasions tailors have a brisk business and earn Rs. 25 to Rs. 35 per day.

There were 346 persons working in this occupation according to 1961 Census in the district.

120. Cobblers

The cobblers or Mochis recondition old, worn out or defective foot-wear. They perform other repairing jobs such as attaching heels and toe cleats, stitching ripped seams, patching holes and polishing shoes. The experienced cobblers make complete foot-wear like Chappals and Sandals.

The value of business done daily varies from Re. 1 to Rs. 2 according to the nature of work. 198 persons were earning their livelihood by this occupation.

121. Blacksmiths

The village blacksmiths forge domestic and agricultural articles required in villages. They heat metal in furnace to required degree of temperature and hold it on anvil with tongs and get it hammered to desired shape and size. They fit metal tyres on cart-wheels and shape and fit iron shoes on hooves of animals. The village blacksmiths are also experienced in simple carpentry, tinsmithy and allied works. They make and repair cart-lamps, containers, funnels, oil-cans, siphons, etc; from thin mild steel, galvanized or other sheets according to instruction for commercial and domestic use. According to 1961 Census, there were 1,439 persons following this profession and they get works in all seasons of the year.

122. Gold and Silversmiths

There are quite a few establishments of gold and silversmiths in urban areas. Titilagarh being a commercial centre, attracts more persons to this occupation, than Balangir. Most of the shops are family concerns, where the owners carry on the works with the help of male relatives. The smiths make and mend gold and silver ornaments and fix precious stones. Tarbha is famous for its filigree works. According to 1961 Census, there were 1,976 persons following this profession as a whole-time occupation.

123. Potters, Brick-layers and Masons

The potters shape and form articles from clay by moulding clay in the centre of a flat-wheel. They revolve the wheel with trade or by giving quick turns to it with a stick and by sprinkling water.

The brick-layers mould bricks and tiles of various sizes and shapes using appropriate moulds. According to 1961 Census, 3,383 persons worked as potters, brick-layers and masons in the district.

124. Bakers and Sweet-meat Makers

The bakers make bread, cakes, biscuits and other products by mixing ingredients such as, flour, sugar, water and yeast into dough. The sweet-makers prepare different varieties of sweets and usually sell by opening stalls in front of their houses. They are known as Gudias by caste. Some of them are employed in hotels and restaurants. On marriage occasions they are called to prepare sweet-meats. On festive occasions they prepare large quantities of sweet-meats of different shapes and kinds and earn a daily income of Rs. 5 to Rs. 10. According to 1961 Census there were 1,499 persons who were bakers or sweet-makers.

Barbers

There are a few hair-cutting saloons in the urban areas and there is a tendency among barbers to have fixed establishments in some important localities. Most of the shops are small establishments each engaging 1 to 3 persons. Generally they are family concerns where the owners with the help of male relatives run the shops.

The services of the village barbers is traditional and almost hereditary, and they are serving in rural areas on wages in cash or in kind generally by annual contract. As the income is not sufficient for his livelihood the village barber generally enters into some other service. In ceremonies like Upanayan and marriage and also in funerals the services of barbers are essential. The village barbers move from street to street to attend the call. According to 1961 Census, there were 782 persons following this occupation.

126. Washermen

The washermen are of two types. Some carry on the work of washing, cleaning and ironing of clothes at home and others have shops of their own in the bazar area. In the towns, laundries are on the increase. All the laundries are family concerns, where the owner with the help of family members carry on the business. The service of the washerman like that of the barber are traditional especially in rural areas where they are sometimes paid annually in terms of rice and paddy. They are Dhobas by caste. According to 1961 Census, 2,294 persons were engaged in laundry service. Their total number both in town and rural area in the 1951 Census were 953 including 229 females.

127. Basket weaving

This occupation is mostly followed by a scheduled caste called Beta. The bamboo workers make bamboo furniture by sizing and dressing bamboo pieces. The basket weavers weave baskets from bamboo wickers and also make basket of wicker, reed and cane. The broom-makers make thin tapered wickers out of bamboo and reeds. In 1961 Census, there were 2,948 persons engaged in this occupation.

128. Spinners, Weavers, Knitters, Dyers and related workers

According to 1961 Census, there were 17,015 persons (male 9,348, female 7,667) who were working either as spinners, weavers, knitters or dyers and in other relating works. Out of them, 986 persons (male 567, female 419) were working as spinners, piecers and winders, 13,889 persons (male 8,380, female 5,509) as drawers and weavers and 2,138 persons (male 399, female 1,739) as bleachers, dyers and finishers (excluding printers). Most of them were working in manufacturing cotton textiles.

129. Domestic servants

Cooks, water-carriers, door keepers, watchmen and other indoor servants are included in this class. These persons are mainly employed by rich and well-to-do people of the district. The cooks are of two types those who serve regularly in private houses throughout the year, and those who are mostly employed at the time of marriage ceremonies and other festive occasions. The latter are generally male cooks. Some of the cooks who serve regularly in private houses are women. The cooks are paid in cash and food. The water carriers bring water from nearby tanks, wells or stream. The water is carried on big pots of brass or earth. The domestic servants who constitute mostly women, clean utensils, wash clothes, broom house floors and sometimes take care of babies. According to 1961 Census, there were 1,149 persons who were engaged in these services in the district.