

CHAPTER VIII

MISCELLANEOUS OCCUPATIONS

In the earlier Chapters on Agriculture ; Industries ; and Banking, Trade and Commerce ; the major sectors of economy were dealt 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, learned professions (teachers, doctors, lawyers, engineers, etc.), 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 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:—*

PUBLIC
ADMINISTRATION

Sl. No.	Occupation	Male	Female	Total
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
1	Administrators and Executive Officials, Central Government Defence Services Personnel.	110	..	110
2	Administrators and Executive Officials, State Government.	369	..	369
3	Village Officials ..	236	1	237
Total ..		715	1	716

Besides providing dearness allowance, the State Government has made provision for granting festival advances to low paid employees and 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 cycle, scooter and motor vehicles.

Amenities
provided to
Government
Servants

* District Census Handbook, Kalahandi, 1961, p. 97.

Besides travelling allowance, Government servants and members of their families get facilities to reimburse the expenses incurred in connection with treatment of diseases. In addition to above benefits the State Government servants are also allowed to surrender a portion of earned leave and, in lieu thereof, get leave salary and allowance.

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.

Employees'
Organisation

There is no public employees' organisation specifically for this district, but there are employees who are members of their respective State level organisations like Orissa State Ministerial Officers' Association, Non-Gazetted Employees' Association, Stenographers' Association, Orissa State Electricity Board Employees' Union, Orissa State Subordinate Engineers' Association, Orissa Administrative Service Association, Orissa State Class IV Employees' Association, etc.

The employees have become members of the respective organisations to safeguard their service interests and for recreational and cultural purposes.

LEARNED
PROFESSION

Legal, Medical, Teaching, Veterinary, and Engineering professions, and Artists, Writers etc., are included under this profession.

Legal
Profession

The legal profession includes lawyers and their clerks and petition writers. These people serve the client in securing justice in civil and criminal matters according to the prevailing Acts and Rules. They live in urban areas where the courts are situated. The fee charged by each lawyer varies according to the nature of the case and the popularity of the lawyer who handles it. But the client has to pay the fee fixed whether the case ends in his favour or not. Though the profession requires experience and the new entrants face difficulties for the first few years, still this profession has attracted a number of persons because it is an independent profession. It also provides good deal of scope for participating and rising in public life.

There were 89 lawyers in the district in 1976. Bhawanipatna being the district headquarters had the highest number of such persons.

Name of the place	Year 1976
Bhawanipatna	49
Nawapara	17
Dharamgarh	23
Total	89

Altogether 294 persons were engaged in medical and other health services in 1976. The break up of these services is given below :—

Medical
Profession

Occupations	Number of persons
(1)	(2)
Allopathic doctors	61
Ayurvedic doctors	8
Homeopathic doctors	4
Nurses	26
Pharmacists	42
Lady Health Visitors	17
Auxiliary Nurses and Mid wives	33
Sanitary Inspectors	42
Paramedical Workers	8
Vaccinators	53
Total	294

Besides the above Government Service holders there are many more who are doing medical and health services privately.

The American Evangelical Mission Hospital, Khariar, has been named as Evangelical Hospital since 1960. In 1977, 5 doctors, 22 nurses, 2 laboratory technicians and 2 X-Ray technicians were engaged in the hospital.

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.

The number of ayurvedic doctors has increased from one in 1946 to eight in 1976. The dispensaries, eight in number, have treated annually about 40,000 patients and have thus gained much popularity in the district. The economic condition of the doctors in general is good as they are placed in the higher scale of pay and are enjoying other benefits as sanctioned by the Government from time to time.

The number of homoeopathic doctors has also been on the increase. The district has now four dispensaries as against one in 1949. Their economic condition is in harmony with the ayurvedic doctors.

Gradually more and more people in the rural areas seem to have inclined to ayurvedic and homoeopathic medicines than allopathic as the medicines are made available freely and at low cost.

Teaching
Profession

Among learned professions, the educational service has attracted a large number of persons than the legal, medical and engineering profession. The teachers work in various educational institutions and play a significant role in the social and cultural life of the district. The data furnished by the District Inspector of Schools and the Principal, Kalahandi Science College, show that 4,942 persons were engaged in the teaching profession, a majority of whom were found in the Bhawanipatna educational district. The number of teachers in Primary schools was the highest.

Category	Number of teachers in 1975-76			
	Bhawani- patna	Nawapara	Dharam- garh	Total
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
College	.. 41	41
High English School	.. 221	125	114	460
Middle English School	.. 197	202	310	709
Primary School including Sevashram Schools.	1,424	1,116	1,192	3,732
Total	.. 1,883	1,443	1,616	4,942

Until recent times the economic condition of the teachers in schools was not at all encouraging. A teacher was always considered to be a poor employee. But now there has been some improvement to their economic conditions due to higher pay scales.

Veterinary
Profession

Prior to Independence, the district was backward in live-stock and poultry. No proper care was being taken in the event of illness as a result of which the quality and quantity of live-stock and poultry deteriorated. After Independence many schemes in the field of animal husbandry and veterinary services have been worked out for the development of live-stock and poultry. This has made

it essential for the district to have veterinary doctors and Live-stock Inspectors (formerly known as Veterinary Stockman). In 1976, 150 persons were engaged in the Veterinary profession out of which 34 were Veterinary Doctors. The rest were Live-stock Inspectors. They were working in different hospitals, dispensaries and other institutions.

There were 35 artists, writers and related workers in the district according to the 1961 Census. The total number included only one female.

Artists and writers

For the developmental activities the district requires the services of engineers, architects, surveyors, draftsman, etc., in large numbers. They discharge their duties in the Roads and Buildings Department, National Highways, Public Health Department, Rural Engineering Organisations, Electricity, Irrigation and Agriculture Departments, and various Government of Orissa undertakings. The strength of different categories of engineering personnel in 1976 was as follows :—

Engineering Profession

Category (1)	Number (2)
Engineer	225
Draftsman	8
Surveyor	5
Tracer	14
Architect	..
Other technical persons	38

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 social and economic pattern of the society. The system of bonded labour was also prevalent in the district of Kalahandi. As a result of the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Ordinance, 1975, as many as 44 bonded labourers were freed and many more cases are still under enquiry.

DOMESTIC AND PERSONAL SERVICES

The persons engaged in domestic services include house-keepers, cooks, maids and related workers. According to the 1961 Census their total number in the district was 1,340 (606 males, 734 females) of which 263 (107 males, 156 females) were in urban areas. Their number is likely to have increased due to the growth of urbanisation in Kalahandi district.

Domestic Servants

The nature of work of a domestic servant in the urban areas of the district differs from that of a servant in the rural areas. In rural areas, domestic servants are employed during the agricultural seasons for undertaking some type of agricultural work. Those in urban areas are employed on full-time or part-time basis for attending to various routine domestic work.

Numerous female domestic servants are seen in Bhawanipatna, Khariar Road, Junagarh, Kesinga and Khariar town of the district. Most of them are widows and poor women who adopt this profession for supplementing their meagre income.

The domestic servants in urban areas are paid in cash. Their wages are not attractive when compared to other occupations but they enjoy the benefit of free fooding, clothing and shelter in addition to their wages. On the other hand, the domestic servants in rural areas are either paid in cash or kind. Generally a servant in urban area is paid higher wages than the one in rural areas.

Religious
services

From time immemorial, the Hindus are prone to perform religious rituals and ceremonies with keen devotion. They take the help of priests or *purohits* who perform these functions. Hence their services have become essential for the society. With the spread of scientific education the religious profession has lost its former glory and respect to some extent. Now people have begun to question the propriety of rituals and ceremonies. This indifferent attitude has, to some extent, affected the profession of the priests and *purohits*. Many priests now look for more lucrative employment elsewhere.

The 1961 Census enumerated the number of ordained religious workers, non-ordained religious workers, astrologers, palmists and related workers as 244 of which 57 were employed in urban areas.

Hair-cutting

Hair-cutting is the traditional occupation of the Bhandaris (barbers). In rural areas the barber moves from door to door with his small wooden box 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 249 barbers and related workers in Kalahandi district. Of this total number, 37 persons were living in urban areas. In 1976, a survey was conducted on behalf of the Municipality and Notified Area Councils of Kalahandi district. It was found that there were 43 hair-cutting saloons in Kesinga, Bhawanipatna, Khariar, Khariar road and Junagarh town which were mostly proprietary concerns. Some of the proprietors hire a room or wooden cabin and pay a monthly rent which vary from Rs. 25 to Rs. 60 per month. The survey also revealed that 76 persons were engaged in these saloons. Usually the owner of the saloon works in the saloon. But in a big establishment artisans are paid wages either on fixed or piecemeal basis. The earning of an average artisan varying from Rs. 60 to Rs. 120 per month. The monthly income of the owner of a saloon varied from Rs. 150 to Rs. 300 per month.

With the establishment of hair-cutting saloons, the practice of barbers going from house to house is fast vanishing, especially in towns. A large number of customers are attracted to the hair-cutting saloons.

In the past, washing of clothes was the hereditary occupation of the Dhobas (washermen). They used to collect clothes from the houses and returned them after washing. This practice still continues in the rural areas and to a certain extent in the urban areas. The growth of urbanisation and spread of education coupled with the increase in the income of a considerable section of the population have increased the demand on the services of the washerman. As a result, a number of laundries have been established. Though a majority of the laundries are managed by the Dhobas a few others have also adopted this occupation from purely business point of view. Laundries are mainly found in urban areas and very rarely in rural areas. According to the 1961 Census, the number of persons engaged in this occupation was recorded to be 729. Of these, 166 (109 males, 57 females) were in urban areas.

Laundries

It was found in Kalahandi district that most of the laundries are family concerns where the owner with the help of his family members 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 varies from Rs. 15 to Rs. 75 depending upon the condition and the locality of the rented room.

Generally the poor people of the district do not give their clothes to the laundries. The earnings of the establishments vary according to the volume of business done. Generally the income ranges from Rs. 100 to Rs. 200 per month.

During last few decades drinking of tea has become very popular both in villages and towns. To meet the demand tea stalls are coming up like mushrooms in every corner of the district. In 1976, there were 106 tea stalls in Bhawanipatna Municipality area and Khariar, Junagarh, Khariar Road and Kesinga Notified Area Council areas of the district. To run the stall the proprietor has to depend on milk and sugar. Whatever cow and buffalo milk is available is being utilised in making tea. Most of the people do not drink milk at all but they take tea regularly. Due to scarcity of milk the tea stalls are also using baby food like Amul Spray and milk powder for preparing tea and coffee. The high price of milk and sugar has raised the price of tea and coffee. In 1976, the owners charged 0.20 and 0.30 paise per cup of tea ; and 0.50 and 0.75 paise per cup of coffee. The price varies according to the quality and quantity of tea or coffee served. Most of these stalls also sell light refreshments for the convenience of the customers. The monthly income of these establishments depend upon the size of the stall and the

Tea Stall

locality in which they are situated. Usually the stalls found at Bhawanipatna, the district headquarters, earn more in comparison with others located in smaller towns. In order to maintain a stall the owner generally engages one to two persons to help in preparing the tea and in washing the utensils used by the customers.

Pan-bidi
Shops

Pan-bidi shops are comparatively few in this district. These are generally established by the owners on a raised platform under a shade, in wooden cabins, by the side of the hotels, cinema houses, railway stations, bus stands, bazar, office area, etc. Some pan-bidi shops only sell *khilipan*, bidis, cigarettes, match boxes while others sell additional items like soap, snow, powder, hair oil, comb, candle, toffee, aerated water, biscuits. etc.

In 1976, there were 87 pan-bidi shops in Bhawanipatna, Kesinga, Khariar, Junagarh and Khariar Road urban areas of the district. In all, 126 persons were engaged in this occupation. The monthly income of these establishments depend upon the size of the shops and the locality in which they are situated.

Cycle Repairing
Shops

Bicycle is known as a common man's mode of conveyance as it provides cheap and ready means of transport. To maintain the cycle in good condition the users require the help of the cycle repairing shops. In 1976, 42 cycle repairing shops were found in the five towns of the district. In these shops 76 persons were engaged. The small repairing shops were one-man units while the medium units employed two to three workers. In many shops boys were employed to do small jobs. The workers were paid at the rate of Rs. 30 to Rs. 75 per month. The gross earnings of the owner of a repairing shop varied from Rs. 100 to Rs. 400 per month. The cycle repairing shops also undertook repairing of stoves and petromaxes.

Tailoring

Since long tailors have become indispensable to society. In 1961, 319 persons were enumerated as tailors, cutters and related workers. Their number in urban areas was 115. It was found in 1976, that there were 103 tailoring shops in the urban areas of the district. These shops provided employment to 196 persons. It was also found that a small tailoring shop usually owned one sewing machine, whereas a medium sized shop had two to three machines. The survey revealed that in most of these establishments the members of the family were engaged. Small boys do minor work like fixing buttons, repairing of garments, etc. Well established concerns employed three to four workers. Some of the employees were paid at piece-rates while others were paid on salary basis. The stitching charges varied from place to place and also from one tailor to another tailor according to the skill and reputation acquired by him. The gross income of a tailoring shop ranged between Rs. 100 to Rs. 450 per month. The business of these shops is brisk during

fairs, festivals and ceremonies, and slack during rainy season. It was found that more than 50 per cent of the tailoring shops were established in, rerted premises and the rent paid by the tailors varied from Rs. 15/- to Rs. 50/-per month.

The Orissa Shops and Commercial Establishments Act, 1956, is in force in Bhawanipatna, Junagarh, Kesinga, Khariar and Khariar Road 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, 1975 there were 80 shops and 82 commercial establishments in the five towns of the district. A total number of 726 workers were in employment in these shops and establishments.

The rapid development of road transport in recent years brought about the growth of a class of workers, viz., drivers, conductors and cleaners. In 1976, 741 persons were engaged in driving different varieties of light and heavy motor vehicles. In 1976-77, 65 persons were engaged as bus conductors and 58 persons as cleaners in Kalahandi district.

There were 55 cycle rickshaw pullers in the district during the year 1976-77. They ply cycle rickshaw on hire basis for transporting passengers and light goods. Their number is more in Bhawanipatna than in other urban areas of the district.

Apart from these, there are persons who ply bullock-carts. The number of persons following this occupation was 1,536 in 1976-77.

Besides the above occupations, there are persons who render useful services by engaging themselves in the following occupations. Their number in the district according to the 1961 Census was as follows * :

Occupations	Number of workers
1. Blacksmiths, Hammersmiths and Forgemen ..	2,668
2. Jewellers, Goldsmiths and Silversmiths ..	427
3. Carpenters, Joiners, Cabinet Makers, Coopers and related workers.	569
4. Basket Weavers and related workers ..	2,530
5. Potters and related Clay Formers ..	2,671
6. Millers, Pounders, Huskers and Parchers, Grains and related food workers.	3,892
7. Photographers and related Camera Operators ..	9
8. Spinners, Weavers, Knitters, Dyers and related workers	8,150
9. Fishermen and related workers ..	454
10. Compositors, Printers, Engravers, Book-Binders and related workers.	7
11. Hawkers, Pedlars and street Venders ..	93
12. Electricians and related Electrical and Electronics works ..	25
13. Loggers and other forestry workers ..	1,010
14. Postmen and messengers ..	51
15. Police constables, Investigators and related workers ..	847
16. Watchmen, Chowkidars and Darwans ..	331
17. Gardeners (Malis) ..	744

Employment
in shops and
Commercial
Establish-
ments

Drivers,
Conductors
and Cleaners

Other useful
services

*. District Census Handbook, Kalahandi, 1961, pp. 96-104.