

CHAPTER VIII

MISCELLANEOUS OCCUPATIONS

The foregoing chapters have dealt with the principal sectors of the economy such as Agriculture; Industries; Banking, Trade and Commerce ; and Communications, in which a major portion of the working population is engaged. This does not, however, exhaust the whole field of economic activities of the district. A considerable number of the working population is engaged in other occupations or miscellaneous occupations like public administration, legal profession, medical profession, engineering profession, veterinary profession, teaching profession, tailoring, hair-cutting, laundries, domestic services, etc. With the growth of urbanisation, these occupations have also grown to a large extent.

Both the educated and the uneducated people prefer jobs in the Public Administration Departments because they get service security and other benefits. The 1961 Census* has returned a large number of persons engaged in various branches of public administration distributed as under :

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

Sl. No.	Occupation	Males	Females	Total
1	2	3	4	5
1	Administrators and Executive Officials, State Government	62	..	62
2	Village Officials ..	163	44	207
	Total ..	225	44	269

Besides providing dearness allowance, the State Government have made provision for granting festival advances to the low paid employees and loans for the construction of residential buildings. The Government also makes loan advances to the employees for the purchase of bi-cycle, scooter and motor vehicles. Apart from travelling allowances the Government employees while on tour get accommodation facilities in rest sheds, inspection bungalows and circuit houses. The employees get facilities to reimburse the expenses incurred in connection with the medical treatment of self and the members of their families. Sometimes a sum of rupees one thousand is made available to them to meet the expenses in connection with their medical treatment. In addition to the above benefits, the State Government servants are allowed to encash earned leave to the

Amenities provided to Government Servants

* District Census Handbook, Boudh-Khondmals, 1961, p. 103

extent of 30 days in a block period of two years. The scheme has been operating since 1973. Group Insurance Scheme has also been made compulsory for the Government employees. As a result, the family members of a deceased employee are entitled to substantial financial aid.

The Central Government employees, employees of the Corporations like the Life Insurance Corporation of India and the Food Corporation of India have their own schemes of allowances, leave, medical relief, provident fund and gratuity.

Employees'
Organisation

There is no Government employees' organisation specifically for this district, but there are employees who are members of their respective State level organisations like the Orissa State Ministerial Officers' Association, Non-Gazetted Employees' Association, Stenographers' Association, Orissa State Electricity Board Employees' Union, Orissa State Subordinate Engineers' Association, Orissa Administrative Officers' Association, Orissa State Class IV Employees' Association, etc. There are also Central Government and Bank employees associations in the district. The employees have joined their respective unions with a view to get redress to their grievances. They have become members for recreational and cultural purposes too.

LEARNED
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 Phulabani, Boudh, Baligurha and G. Udayagiri 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 deals with it. But the client has to pay the fee fixed whether the case ends in his favour or not. Since this is an independent profession, a number of persons are attracted to it.

The district had 57 lawyers in 1978. Boudh being an ex-State had the highest number (37) of such persons. The lawyers have Bar Associations which look after their professional interests.

Medical
Profession

Altogether 400 persons were engaged in medical and other health services in the district till December, 1977. The break-up of these services is given below :—

Category (1)	Number (2)
Allopathic Doctors	74
Ayurvedic Doctors	11
Homoeopathic Doctors	6
Nurses	31
Health Visitors	24
Auxiliary Nurses and Midwives	64
Sanitary Inspectors	37
Paramedical Workers	17

(1)		(2)
Vaccinators	..	66
Pharmacists	..	49
Radiographers	..	3
Laboratory Technicians	..	18
Total	..	400

Besides the above Government service holders there are many more who are doing medical and health services privately. Those who have name and fame and long experience in the profession generally earn more and maintain a better standard of living.

Among learned professions, the educational service has attracted a large number of persons than other professions. The teachers work in various educational institutions and play a significant role in the social and cultural life of the district. The number of recognised Institutions and teachers in different category of educational institutions in 1972-73 is given below*.

Teaching
Profession

Category of Educational Institutions	No. of Institutions	No. of teachers
1	2	3
1. (a) Primary Schools	.. 1,377	2,422
(b) Sevashram and Kanyashram Schools	112	402
2. (a) Middle English Schools	.. 93	266
(b) Ashram and Kanyashram Schools	.. 5	72
3. High English Schools	.. 28	328
4. College	.. 1	23
Total	.. 1,616	3,513

It is found from the statement that 3,513 persons were engaged in the profession of teaching in the district. Of these, 2,824 were Primary, Sevashram School and Kanyashram School teachers.

Until recent times the economic condition of the teachers in the schools was not good. A teacher was always considered to be a poor employee. But now there has been some improvement in their economic conditions due to the sanction of higher pay scales and other service benefits.

* District Statistical Handbook, Phulabani, 1972-73, pp. 140-146

Veterinary
Profession

The condition of livestock and poultry was not good in the district before Independence. No proper care was being taken in the event of illness. As a result, quality and quantity of livestock deteriorated to a great extent. After Independence many schemes in the field of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services have been worked out for the development of livestock and poultry. This has made it essential for the district to have Veterinary doctors, Livestock Inspectors and other technicians. In 1977, altogether 110 persons were engaged in the Veterinary profession, of which 44 were Veterinary doctors. The rest were Livestock Inspectors. They were working in different hospitals, dispensaries, livestock centres and other units of the Department.

Engineering
Profession

A number of engineers, surveyors, draftsman, tracer and other technical personnel are employed in the district to carry out various developmental activities in the district. They discharge their duties under the Public Works Department (R. & B.), National Highways Organisation, Public Health Department, Rural Engineering Organisation,* Irrigation Department, Agriculture Department, Orissa Lift Irrigation Corporation and Orissa State Electricity Board. Their strength in the district on 31st March, 1978 was as follows :—

Category	Number
Engineer	.. 141
draftsman	.. 6
Surveyor	.. 3
Tracer	.. 6

Other technical persons (Mechanics, Electricians, Amin, .. 178
Fitter, Welder, Operator, Observer, Pump Driver, Vehicle Driver).

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 socio-economic condition of the people.

Domestic
servants

The number of persons engaged in the district as house keepers, cooks, maids, domestic servants and related workers were 760 in 1961 of whom 329 were females. Their number is likely to have increased in 1978.

In addition to domestic work, male and female servants also attend to agricultural operations in the rural areas. In urban areas they also work in hotels and restaurants.

* Now defunct

They are paid in cash or kind. 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. They have no association to protect their rights and interests.

Hair-cutting is the traditional occupation of the Bhandaris (barbers). According to the 1961 Census, there were 171 (157 males and 14 females) barbers, hair dressers and related workers in Boudh-Khondmals district. It is found from a survey in 1978 that there are 10 hair-cutting saloons in the urban areas of Phulabani and Boudh, of which 6 are in Phulabani. Most of these saloons are functioning in rented houses. The proprietors pay a monthly rent which vary from Rs. 25/- to Rs. 50/-. The survey also revealed that 22 persons including the owner were engaged in these saloons. The employees are paid wages, either on fixed or piecemeal basis. The earning of an average saloon owner varies from Rs. 200/- to Rs. 500/- per month.

Hair-cutting

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

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 Dhobas (washermen). As a result, 8 laundries have been established so far in the urban areas of the Boudh-Khondmals district. In the Census of 1961, 802 persons (including 515 females) were enumerated in the district as launderers, cleaners, pressers and washermen.

Laundries

It was found in the 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 survey revealed that 50 per cent of the laundries are housed in rented buildings. The rent vary from Rs. 15/- to Rs. 30/- per month depending upon the condition and the locality of the rented house. Their usual charges vary from Re. 0.25 to Re. 0.50 paise per piece and from Rs. 5/- to Rs. 10/- per 20 articles. The earnings of the establishments vary according to the volume of business done. Generally the income ranges from Rs. 200/- to Rs. 500/- But their caste men earn less in rural areas.

The Census of 1961 enumerated 218 persons (including 27 females) in the district as tailors, cutters and related workers. Of the total number, only 35 males were found in the urban areas. In 1978, it was reported by the Notified Area Councils of Phulabani and Boudh that

Tailoring

there were 25 and 29 tailoring shops in the respective areas. These shops had employed 129 persons. It is also found that most of the tailoring shops are privately owned and function in the tailor's own house. Tailoring charges vary according to the quality of the materials as also of the work. In the first half of 1978, they were Rs. 3/- for making a cotton half shirt, and Rs. 4/- or Rs. 5/- for a full shirt or *punjabi* and Rs.15/- to Rs. 18/- for a cotton pant. The investigation revealed that the gross income of a tailoring shop ranged between Rs. 300/- to Rs. 800/- per month.

Cycle repairing shop

Bicycle is known as the 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 cycle repairing shops. In 1978, 30 cycle repairing shops were found in the two towns of the district. In these shops 61 persons were engaged. Of these shops, 21 were in Boudh and were one-man units. In Phulabani almost all the shops employed more than one worker. In many shops boys are employed to do small jobs. The workers are paid Rs. 30/- to Rs. 40/- per month. The gross earnings of the owner of a cycle repairing shop in a month varied from Rs. 300/- to Rs. 500/- In addition to cycle repairing, a few shops undertook repairing of stoves and petromax lights.

Automobile repairing shop

The number of automobile repairing shops in the district was three in 1978. These were operating only in Phulabani town. In all, 15 persons were engaged in this occupation. The monthly income of each of these establishments was about Rs. 1500/-.

Radio repairing shop

There were four Radio repairing shops in the two towns of the district. Of these, two were in Phulabani, the district headquarters. Only seven persons earned their livelihood from this occupation in 1978. The monthly income of a shop owner varied from Rs. 300/- to Rs. 500/-.

Bakery

Of the two bakeries in the urban areas in the district one is at Phulabani and the other is at Boudh. These two bakeries, in 1978, absorbed seven persons including the owners.

Tea stall

During the last decades drinking of tea has become very popular both in the villages and the towns. To meet the demand, tea stalls are coming up like mushrooms in every corner of the district. In 1978, there were 84 tea stalls in Phulabani and Boudh Notified Area Council areas of the district. The stall owners generally charged Re. 0.30 to Re. 0.50 paise for a cup of tea. A few people take coffee. In addition to tea and coffee 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 locality in which they are situated. In order to maintain a stall the owner usually engages one or two persons to help him in serving tea and refreshments and for doing other odd jobs.

Pan-bidi shops are generally established by the owners on a raised platform under a shade, in wooden cabins; by the side of hotels, 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, biscuits, etc. In 1978, there were 160 *pan-bidi* shops in Phulabani and Boudh urban areas of the district. In all, 190 persons were engaged in this occupation. The monthly income of these establishments depend upon the size of the shop and the locality in which they are situated. Their average monthly income varied from Rs. 300/- to Rs. 350/-.

Pan-bidi shop

The Orissa Shops and Commercial Establishments Act, 1956 is in force in Phulabani and Boudh Notified Area Council areas 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 March, 1977, there were 29 shops and 28 commercial establishments in the two Notified Area Councils of the district. A total number of 611 workers were in employment in these shops and commercial establishments. The Boudh Kshyudra Byabasayee Sangh, Boudh, is the only association of its kind in the district to look to the interests of the shop keepers and small commercial establishments.

Employment in shops and Commercial 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 1976-77, 349 persons got driving licence to drive motor vehicles. Of the total number, 93 were heavy motor vehicle licence holders. Usually the persons engaged in driving heavy vehicles got higher pay than the light vehicle drivers.

Drivers, conductors and cleaners

In 1977-78, there were 59 cycle rickshaw pullers in the urban areas of the district. They ply rickshaw on hire basis for transporting passengers and light goods. Their number is more in Phulabani than in Boudh town.

Besides cycle rickshaw pullers, there are persons who earn their livelihood by plying bullock carts. The number of persons following this occupation in the urban areas of the district was 95 in the year 1977-78.

Other useful
services

Besides the above occupations, there are persons who render useful services by engaging themselves in the following occupations.*

Occupations	Number of workers
1. Blacksmiths, Hammersmiths and Forgemen	1,237
2. Jewellers, Goldsmiths and Silversmiths ..	432
3. Carpenters, Joiners, cabinet makers, coopers and related workers	268
4. Basket weavers and related workers	1,404
5. Potters and related clay formers ..	1,763
6. Millers, Pounders, Huskers and Parchers, Grains and related food workers	2,125
7. Spinners, weavers, knitters, dyers and related workers	5,246
8. Fishermen and related workers	760
9. Compositors, Printers, Engravers, Book-Binders and related workers	618
10. Hawkers, Pedlars and street venders	289
11. Electricians and related Electrical and Electronics workers	12
12. Loggers and other forestry workers	831
13. Postmen and messengers	38
14. Police constables, Investigators and related workers	199
15. Watchmen, Chowkidars and Darwans	204
16. Stenographers and Typists	14
17. Telephone, Telegrgraph and Related Telecommunication operators	14
18. Money-lenders and Pawn-Brokers	819

*. District Census Handbook, 1961, Boudh-Khondmals, pp. 103-111