

CHAPTER VIII

MISCELLANEOUS OCCUPATIONS³

85. Introductory

In the beginning of the present century, in Dhenkanal, and Talcher ex-States, blacksmiths made, for local use, iron implements, such as axes, bill-hooks, crow-bars, shovels, spades, sickles and knives. In Dhenkanal, ivory work of good quality was prepared by one or two families. Most of the persons were largely dependent on cultivation in addition to their other occupations, which were generally of a subsidiary nature. Broadly speaking, the total population was divided into agriculturists and labourers, of whom the former preponderated over the latter. In Talcher, an industrial school, during this period was started by the ex-Chief with a view to improving the ordinary village trades. At the school, superior leather work especially in boots and shoes, gold and silver ornamental work, and superior carpentry, and blacksmithy were taught.

In Athmallik ex-State during this period, a considerable number of blacksmiths earned their livelihood by smelting iron, which was of excellent quality. The people were contented with inferior cultivation and preferred to spend much of their time in the forests, hunting, and living on forest produce. The chief occupation of the people was agriculture. 66·6 per cent of the total population followed agriculture, 1·38 per cent trade, 4·47 per cent State, domestic and other services, and 21·9 per cent maintained themselves on labour.

During this period, the principal occupation of the people of Hindol ex-State was cultivation. The people were backward and improvident. Living on the other hand, was cheap and their wants were few and simple. The ordinary requirements of village life were supplied by village artisans. Brass utensils were imported from Cuttack, and Kantilo in the Khandapada ex-State.

The people of Pal Lahara ex-State were extremely backward, but contented, their demands were few and they lived for preference largely on forest fruits and roots. The occupations followed were the cultivation of lac and rearing of tussar cocoons, the collection of wild honey, myrobalan and other forest produce by the jungle tribes.

In Angul district, * in the census of 1901, 76·0 per cent of the total population were returned as dependent on agriculture. Of the total number engaged in cultivation, 35 per cent were actual workers, including 100 rent-receivers, 33,000 rent payers, and 18,000 agricultural labourers.

* In 1891 Angul was constituted a separate district, with two subdivisions, namely, Angul, and Khondmals.

Altogether 15 per cent of the population were supported by various industries, including 3,000 weavers, 2,000 basket and mat-makers, and a fair number of potters, and iron-smiths. Commerce supported 1.0 per cent of the population and among those engaged in other occupations, herdsmen with a strength of 3,000 were numerous.

The people of Angul subdivision were solely dependent on the produce of the fields and forests. Small hand industries intended to meet the simple needs of the villagers were followed. Cotton-weaving was carried on by the Panas and a few Tantis. Baskets were made by Godras, Hadis, and Doms, and mats by Hadis, Doms, Panas, and Khairas. The Doms, both men and women, prepared excellent baskets and good palm-leaf mats. Rough axes, ploughshares and other agricultural implements were made by blacksmiths; and brass and bell-metal ornaments, Lotas and lamps by a caste called Kharuras. In the meantime few decades have passed without much change. The principal occupation of the people was cultivation.

The 1951 Census revealed that out of the total population of 839,241 as many as 702,200 were mainly dependent on agriculture for their livelihood. This figure included self-supporting persons with agriculture as their principal means of livelihood as well as their dependents. The rest of the population pursued different non-agricultural avocations which was broadly classified into (1) Production (other than cultivation), (2) Commerce, (3) Transport, and (4) other sources including service. The following table based on 1951 Census gives the number of persons belonging to different livelihood classes classified according to their principal means of livelihood. Self-supporting persons, earning dependents, and non-earning dependents are shown under each class.

86. Primary Means of Livelihood

Primary Means	Self-supporting persons	Non-earning dependents	Earning dependents	Total
1	2	3	4	5
Agricultural	192,286	432,583	77,331	702,200
Non-agricultural	43,479	80,141	13,421	137,041
(a) Production (other than cultivation).	19,190	37,916	5,832	62,938
(b) Commerce ..	4,687	8,374	1,200	14,261
(c) Transport ..	1,078	1,465	139	2,682
(d) Other sources including services.	18,524	32,386	6,250	57,160
Total ..	235,765	512,724	90,752	839,241

A person was assigned to a particular class according to his own principal occupation, if he was self-supporting. When he had no earnings of his own or when his earning was inadequate to support him fully, he was put under the class to which the person on whom he was fully or partly dependent belonged. Of the non-agricultural occupations which included 137,041 persons, Commerce and Transport, attracted only a few thousand persons. Production (other than cultivation) which included avocations like coal mining, and forestry engaged a greater number.

87. Secondary Means of Livelihood

In the 1951 Census the secondary means of livelihood, if any, of every self-supporting person were enumerated. In the following table is shown the number of persons of different livelihood classes who had a secondary means of livelihood. Alongside are also shown the occupations of earning dependents. As in our country's economy a family is the basic unit, the source of income of an earning dependent is considered as his secondary means of livelihood.

Livelihood classes to which they belong		Secondary Means of Livelihood				
		Agri-cultural	Production (other than cultivation)	Commerce	Transport	Other sources and miscellaneous sources
1	2	3	4	5	6	
Agricultural						
S. S.	12,991	5,329	591	18,383
E. D.	..	36,412	14,635	4,378	258	18,769
Production (other than Cultivation.)						
S. S.	..	5,983	352	97	116	727
E. D.	..	2,846	1,107	887	13	977
Commerce						
S. S.	..	1,118	78	88	6	138
E. D.	..	484	277	196	8	235
Transport						
S. S.	..	467	68	5	12	9
E. D.	..	36	39	28	8	28
Other Services and miscellaneous sources.						
S. S.	..	4,961	321	158	17	449
E. D.	..	2,523	1,146	289	10	2,282

* S. S. = Self-supporting

* E. D. = Earning dependents

The Economic Survey of Orissa, conducted in 1954-55, mentioned that 85.6 per cent were agricultural families. Out of this, 57.3 per cent were owner cultivators, 0.8 per cent non-owner cultivators, 2.6 per cent non-cultivating owners and 24.9 per cent belonged to agricultural labourers. 0.8 per cent of the non-agricultural families belonged to the occupation of trade, 3.7 per cent to production other than agriculture and 3.8 per cent to service and profession.

The Census of 1961 revealed that of the total population of 1,028,935 as many as 311,329 were dependent on agriculture, which included both cultivators and agricultural labourers. In mining and quarrying 4,220, in household industry 43,100, in manufacturer 1,126, in construction 699, in trade and commerce 4,991, in transport 763 and in other services 59,032 people were working in the district. Besides, there were 603,675 people who were treated as non-workers. They were mostly children, students, housewives, infants, rentiers, beggars and vagrants. Owing to the fact that the definition of a worker in 1961 Census differs from that adopted in previous Census, it is not possible to compare the 1961 figures, with that of the 1951 figures.

The livelihood classification of the people of different subdivisions and urban areas of the district according to 1961 Census, have been given in Appendices I & II.

According to the provisional population figures recorded by 1971 Census, the district has a total population of 1,294,126 consisting of 653,881 males and 640,245 females. Of the total population, 1,242,274 are remaining in rural areas and 51,852 in urban areas. The percentage of urban population to total population is 4.07.

The total number of workers in the district is 389,894 of which 358,540 are males and 31,354 are females. The number of workers constitutes 30.1 per cent of the total population, the male and female workers respectively accounting for 54.8 per cent and 4.9 per cent of the total male and female population. In 1961 the total number of workers made up 41.3 per cent of the total population and the male and female workers respectively constituted 59.4 per cent and 23.1 per cent of the corresponding total population. The large variations in the decade cannot be explained by any economic analysis.

Of the total working population cultivators, agricultural labourers, and other residual workers respectively account for 51.2 per cent, 26.9 per cent, and 21.9 per cent. The corresponding figures for 1961 were 58.6 per cent, 14.6 per cent and 26.8 per cent.

The reason for the decline in the participation rates particularly among the females, may partly be attributed to the change in the definition of workers adopted in 1971 Census as compared to that of 1961.

In 1961, housewives, and students, who rendered only casual assistance in economically productive work like cultivation and household industry were included as workers. But in 1971, a man or woman who is, engaged primarily in household duties, or a boy and girl who is primarily a student, even if he helps the family in economic activity are not treated as a worker.

To assist the agriculturist in his pursuits, many crafts, trades and other avocations have arisen. Before a cultivator goes to his field, he needs a plough, a yoke, a spade, and a sickle. At harvest time he needs an agent to find a market for his produce. His family needs pots and utensils, clothes to wear and a host of other commodities. His cattle has to be looked after. He needs a barber and a washerman. As such, many classes, adept in different crafts and vocations, have appeared since time immemorial principally out of the needs of the agriculturists.

Besides, there are people who followed different professions in the district, as discussed below.

88. Medical Practitioners

(i) Allopathic

In 1968, for 23,928 people and 254.51 square kilometres there was a medical institution ; either a hospital, a dispensary, or a primary health centre.

In the district, there are 16 hospitals, 16 Primary Health Centres and 15 dispensaries. Besides, there is a Maternity Centre at Bhuban, and a Maternity and Child Welfare Centre at Dhenkanal. These institutions during 1969 were provided with 60 doctors, 26 nurses, 52 compounders and pharmacists, 9 health visitors, 12 health inspectors, 56 dais, and 12 auxiliary nurse midwives.

(ii) Ayurvedic

Ayurveda is also popular and preferred by a number of persons. At present, there are 11 ayurvedic dispensaries in the district. Each of these institutions is provided with a Kaviraj.

In 1961 Census there were 147 Kavirajas including 10 females.

(iii) Homeopathic

There is only one Government Homeopathic Dispensary in the village Talmul established since 1965. In 1971 there are 189 registered homeopathic doctors.

89. Educational Profession

During 1970, there were 84 High Schools and 849 teachers, 276 Middle Schools and 779 teachers, 1,481 Primary Schools and 3,236 teachers, 54 Junior Basic Schools and 175 teachers, 6 Senior Basic Schools and 56 teachers, 1 Post Basic School and 10 teachers, 1 Art and Craft School and 2 teachers, 4 Ashram Schools and 45 teachers, 69 Sevashrams and 133 teachers, and 4 Elementary Training Schools and 17 teachers. Total number of schools in the district were 1,980, out of which 1,960 for boys and 20 for girls. The total number of teachers were 5,302 during 1970.

Besides, there are 4 colleges, namely, Talcher College, Dhenkanal College, Angul College, and Basic Training College, Angul. The total number of lecturers during 1970, were 94 in these institutions.

Details have been discussed in the chapter "Education and Culture".

90. Legal Practitioners

At the time of merger of States, there were some pleaders practising in the ex-State Courts. After merger of States they were allowed to continue their practice in both Civil and Criminal Courts. Now the system of pleadership, and muktiarship have been changed and those who are practising law in the Courts are known as advocates.

During 1968, there were 69 advocates in the district, practising in the different Courts of subdivisions, district headquarters, and the High Court.

91. Personal Services

Domestic servants, barbers, and washerman are included under this group.

(a) Domestic Servants

Well-to-do people employ in their households domestic servants for miscellaneous purposes. They include private motor car drivers and cleaners, gardeners, cooks, and other servants for multifarious household duties mainly for the comfort of the master or to assist the mistress where she is unable to cope with the household burdens. An owner of a car employs a driver, on a monthly salary, who also does the work of a cleaner. A gardener is also assigned some other household duties. Cooks receive in addition to their salary free food and in many cases free clothings too. In 1961 there were 2,847 domestic servants of all types.

A motor car driver gets ordinarily between Rs. 150 to Rs. 200 a month as salary. A cook receives Rs. 20 to Rs. 30 besides food and clothing. Other domestic servants are paid at Rs. 10 to Rs. 15 per month.

(b) Barbers

Persons belonging to Barik or Bhandari caste are traditional hair-dressers. They are found in almost every village. In urban areas, notably in Dhenkanal, Talcher, and Angul, a few hair-dressing saloons are served by these Bariks. In towns, are also a number of barbers who go from door to door to do haircut or shaving. The village barbers' service is hereditary ; he does the service to a village or a part of it consisting of his entire clientele and there is little competition. He is usually paid annually. As the payment is not much the barber takes to some other avocation too. In ceremonies like, sacred thread, and marriage the barber and his wife has some specific duties and he is well paid for it. A barber of an urban area, receives about Re. 0.50 for a haircut with a shave, and Re. 0.20 for a shave only. In the hair-dressing saloons the charges are slightly higher. In 1961 there were 1052 barbers in the district, out of which 405 were living in urban areas.

(c) Washermen

Cleansing of clothes is a calling of some people belonging to a caste called Dhoba. As with barbers, they receive fixed payments from different households in rural areas. The payment varies from family to family according to its status and size. Their service is, similarly, hereditary and with little competition. In the urban areas payment is either fixed on a monthly basis or according to the number of pieces of garments. In 1961 there were 3,741 persons in this occupation.

92. Artisans

Besides, there were many artisans in various crafts, which is given below in order of their numerical importance. The following figures were related to 1961 Census.

Sl. No.	Name of occupation	Number of artisans
1	2	3
1	Basketry Weavers	8,897
2	Spinners, Weavers, Knitters and Dyers	3,999
3	Potters	1,997
4	Blacksmiths	1,586
5	Goldsmiths and Silversmiths	1,115
6	Carpenters	1,112
7	Bidi-makers	664
8	Tailors	381

APPENDIX I

Subdivisionwise classification of livelihood according to 1961 Census

Name of Subdivision	Area in Sq. Km.	Total workers	Cultivator	Agricultural Labourer	Mining	Household Industry
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Dhenkanal	1,548.7	83,176	37,038	13,518	901	11,764
Kamakhyanagar	2,238.9	78,847	43,682	14,554	453	9,784
Angul	2,336.6	104,605	68,697	9,916	472	10,013
Talcher	1,004.6	43,536	25,669	5,260	2,080	2,588
Athmallik	1,841.5	55,005	37,265	9,838	192	2,791
Hindol	808.1	33,352	18,191	5,220	59	4,565
Pal Lahara	1,167.0	26,739	18,765	3,176	52	1,595

APPENDIX I

Subdivisionwise classification of livelihood according to 1961 Census

Name of Subdivision	8	9	10	11	12	13
	Manu- facturers	Construc- tion	Trade & Commerce	Transport	Other services	Non- workers
1						
Dhenkanal	266	188	1,748	1,748	17,374	144,332
Kamakhyanager	149	44	1,224	23	8,934	137,556
Angul	471	156	821	175	13,884	125,933
Talcher	146	260	571	138	6,818	72,949
Athmalik	53	10	253	13	4,603	45,321
Hindol	41	21	280	33	4,942	51,439
Pal Lahara	..	20	112	2	2,477	25,945

APPENDIX II

Classification of livelihood of the urban areas according to 1961 Census

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Name of urban areas	Area in sq. km.	Total workers	Cultivator	Agricultural Labourer	Mining	Household Industry
Dhenkanal Municipality	4.56	4,638	339	22	50	469
Bhuban Town	1.58	2,819	1,061	222	24	761
Notified Area Council, Angul	18.96	5,762	1,807	364	150	386
Notified Area Council, Talcher	17.66	2,556	212	26	136	291

APPENDIX II

Classification of livelihood of the Urban areas according to 1961 Census

Name of urban areas	8	9	10	11	12	13
	Manu- facturers	Construc- tion	Trade & Commerce	Transport	Other services	Non- workers
1	8	9	10	11	12	13
Dhenkanal Municipality	203	131	523	285	2,616	9,089
Bhuban Town	85	15	327	5	319	6,557
Notified Area Council, Angul	394	133	228	157	2,140	9,976
Notified Area Council, Talcher	141	71	286	111	1,282	5,591