

CHAPTER VIII

MISCELLANEOUS OCCUPATIONS

133. General

The Census of 1931 revealed that the total population of Mayurbhanj was 889,603 of whom 439,506 or 49·4 per cent were non-working dependents comprising children and old and infirm persons. The total percentage of worker-earners and working dependents combined come to 50·6 per cent, the former constituting 38·9 per cent and the latter 11·7 per cent. The distribution of these workers by sex shows a preponderance of earner males and working but dependent females. Against above 51·3 per cent male earners there was 26·5 per cent, or about one-third female earners. The ratio of the two sexes among the working dependents was 17·4 in the case of females and just one-third viz. 5·8 among males.

Out of a total of 345,779 earners, 139,597 or a little over 40 per cent had subsidiary occupation of some kind or other.

According to 1951 Census, 87·23 per cent of the population were dependent on agriculture for their livelihood while 12·77 per cent lived on industries and other services. Among the agricultural classes 69·29 per cent were cultivators of land wholly or mainly owned and their dependents, 3·8 per cent were cultivators of unowned land and their dependents, 13·43 per cent were agricultural labourers and their dependents and only 0·71 per cent were non-cultivating owners of land and their dependants. Of those who derived their principal means of livelihood from non-agricultural pursuits, 4·78 per cent depended upon production other than cultivation, 1·07 per cent on commerce, 0·23 per cent on transport and 6·69 per cent on other services and miscellaneous sources.

The Census of 1961 revealed that of the total working population of 623,718 as many as 358,601 were cultivators and 162,358 were agricultural labourers. They constituted 29·8 per cent and 13·5 per cent on the working force respectively.

Out of the total workers, 1·3 per cent were working in mining, quarrying, livestock, forestry, fishery, plantation, orchards and allied activities. At household industry there were 3·2 per cent of workers. In manufacturing other than household industry the number of workers

was 0·1 per cent. In construction 0·1 per cent, in transport, storage and communication 0·1 per cent, in trade and commerce 0·3 per cent and in other services 3·4 per cent of workers were working in the district. Besides, there were 48·2 per cent of the total population of the district who were economically passive having no income of their own and were entirely dependent on other resources. Children, full-time students oldmen, rentiers, women, beggars and vagrants mostly constituted this class. The following table shows the number of female workers per 1,000 male workers in each industrial category.

Category of occupation	No. of female workers per 1,000 male workers
I. Cultivation ..	626
II. Agricultural labour ..	1,162
III. Mining, quarrying, livestock, forestry, fishery, plantation, orchards and allied activities.	387
IV. Household industry ..	887
V. Manufacturing other than household industry.	54
VI. Construction ..	91
VII. Trade and commerce ..	147
VIII. Transport, storage and communication.	10
IX. Other services ..	471

The percentage of the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe people engaged in different occupations was as shown below:

*Among 56·0 per cent of workers in the Scheduled Tribes, 32·9 per cent belonged to the category of cultivation, 16·7 per cent to the category of agricultural labour, 1·5 per cent to the category of mining, quarrying, livestock, forestry, fishing, plantation, orchards and allied activities, 1·7 per cent to the category of household industry and 3·0 per cent to other services. The percentage of workers working in manufacturing other than household industry, in construction, in trade and commerce and in transport, storage and communication were negligible. Besides there were 44·0 per cent of the population who were economically passive.

[78 B. of R.—38]

Among 51.2 per cent of workers in the Scheduled Castes, 19.7 per cent belonged to the category of cultivation, 12.9 per cent to the category of agricultural labour, 1.4 per cent to the category of mining, quarrying, livestock, forestry, fishing, plantation, orchards and allied activities, 11.2 per cent to other services. The percentage of workers working in manufacturing other than household industry, trade and commerce, transport, storage and communication and in construction were negligible. They were 0.3 per cent, 0.3 per cent, 0.2 per cent and 0.2 per cent respectively. Besides there were 48.0 per cent of persons who were economically passive.

According to 1961 Census the district had 10.6 per cent of workers in the age-group of 0—14, 51.9 per cent in the age-group of 15—34, 33.2 per cent in the age-group of 35—59 and 4.3 per cent in the age-group of 60 years or above.

134. Change in Occupation Pattern

Among the tribes, artisan classes, such as barbers, oilmen, carpenters, washermen, etc., are negligible. Some castes have either abandoned or are giving up their old traditional occupations. The Sundhis who were once so prominent in distilling liquor have now given up the occupation. The Telis have long since ceased to be oil pressers, their occupation being taken up by the Tamesia section of the Bhumij. Likewise, a particular section of the Kumbharas in Bamanghaty have given up their traditional occupation connected with ceramics. Kurunga as a class have long occupied the field of carpentry and by now may be said to have largely succeeded in dispensing with the services of the Barhel. At one time bamboo work was the traditional occupation of the Doms in this district as elsewhere, who still continue to hold that occupation to a great extent. But they have their rival in the district in a particular section of Santals who, since adopting this occupation have formed themselves into separate sub-class known as Mahalis. Rope making with Siali creeper has come to be known as the distinctive occupation of the Mankrias in the district. The Gaurs whose traditional occupation was connected with cowkeeping have now almost given up that work and their place has largely been taken up by the Kurmis of the district. The few Chamars that are in the district cannot be said to have altogether ceased to be toddy tappers. Making of gold and silver ornaments is largely in the hands of the outsiders belonging to the Sonar class. The Kamla in the district, however, is a poor substitute for a goldsmith. Similarly it may be added that grain parching which was the traditional occupation of the Karhis and Keutas has long since, in majority of cases, passed into the hands of Bathuris, Bhuyans, Gauras and several other classes in the district.

135. Public Administration

The Union Government employees are bound by the same service conditions which are common throughout India. They receive higher pay compared with employees of the State Government. According to 1961 Census there were 16 persons who were administrators and executive officers of the Central Government. Many of the State Government employees belong to the Revenue Department. Besides there are many employees of different Departments, such as, Excise, Police, Commercial Taxes, Forest, etc. Many of the gazetted and non-gazetted officials are provided with Government quarters on payment of a reasonable rent fixed according to pay. According to 1961 Census there were 221 persons who were administrators and executive officials of the State Government.

There are three types of Local Self-Government bodies which have been discussed elaborately in Chapter XIV.

They are—

1. Zilla Parishad
2. Notified Area Councils
3. Panchayat Samitis
4. Grama Panchayats

Facilities of contributory provident fund, leave, etc., are open to the employees but no pension is allowed. According to 1961 Census there were 172 persons who were elected, nominated by Government, salaried, Government executives and administrators.

136. Legal Practice

Under this occupation are included advocates, legal assistants, mukhtars, petition writers, judges and magistrates. The petition writers, write petitions, applications, statements, etc. on behalf of the litigants and charge them according to rates, fixed by court. The advocates appear for their clients in civil and criminal courts.

According to 1961 Census there were 72 persons who followed this occupation.

137. Medical Practice

Of the qualified medical practitioners only a few are stationed at Baripada. There were 56 allopathic doctors in 1961. Besides, there were 73 Ayurvedic and 49 Homeopathic doctors. There were also 96 nurses.

Lady Health Visitors are posted in the Primary Health Centres attached to the Community Development Blocks. They render antenatal care and advice to expectant mothers and conduct simple delivery cases. They also conduct first-aid classes at Welfare centres and give family planning advice.

There were 86 Pharmacists in the district in 1961. Most of them were Government employees or retired persons.

138. Teachers

On account of establishment of many new schools and colleges, there has been a rapid increase in the number of persons engaged in educational service in the district. Ladies are also entering the teaching profession. According to 1961 Census there were 14 College teachers, 84 Secondary School teachers and 2,523 Middle and Primary School teachers.

139. 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 occupations of this class as their principal means of livelihood.

TABLE I

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

Name of occupation	Male	Female	Urban areas	
			Male	Female
Architects, Engineers and Surveyors.	112	..	46	..
Social Scientists ..	199	22	10	2
Artists, writers and related workers.	92	4	32	2
Painters ..	16	..	16	..

140. Priests, Astrologers and Palmists

Priests are the most numerous among these persons. They are called poojari, padre and Imam according to the religion to which they belong. The non-ordained religious persons help the ordained ones in conducting worship and perform rites on occasions like marriage and death. Among the Hindus there are many persons who know astrology and palmistry. An astrologer prepares horoscopes of persons and by calculation he claims to know past events in their lives and predicts the future. The palmist interprets lines and other symbols on palms of persons. According to 1961 Census there were 290 persons following the profession in the district.

141. Fishermen

The fishermen, known as Keutas, catch fish in tanks, and rivers with the help of different types of fishing implements. In 1961, there were 53 persons in the district who were following this occupation.

142. Drivers (of vehicles)

In 1961, there were 509 drivers, the largest number of whom were paid employees. Several of the truck drivers own their vehicles.

In 1961 there were 89 cycle rickshaw-pullers plying rickshaws on hire or as paid employees for transporting passengers and light goods inside urban areas and their neighbourhood. Besides, there were 142 persons who were plying carts, or other vehicles drawn by animals. There were a few Doli or Palki bearers mostly in rural areas who carried palanquin or Doli on shoulders in groups of two or more, for transporting one or more persons. There were 5 railway engine drivers in the district.

143. Tailors

A number of tailoring firms are established in towns like Baripada, Rairangpur, Karanjia and Udala. These are small establishments where the owners with the help of two or three paid employees carry on the work. Some firms engage 5 to 7 persons. The occupation provides wholtime employment throughout the year.

The value of the business done daily varies from Rs. 4 to Rs. 20 according to the size and business of the firms. During the marriage seasons and other festive occasions tailors have a good business up to Rs. 20 to Rs. 40 per day.

In 1961 there were 703 persons working in this occupation in the district.

144. Cobblers

The cobblers or mochis recondition old, wornout or defective footwear to make them serviceable. The experienced cobblers make complete footwear like shoes, chappals and sandals. Some of them have small establishments.

The value of the business done daily varies from Rs. 2 to Rs. 4 according to the nature of the work. There were 104 persons who were earning their livelihood by this occupation, in 1961.

145. Blacksmith

The village blacksmiths make domestic and agricultural articles required in villages. They fit metal tyres on cart-wheels and shape, and fit iron shoes on hooves of animals. They know simple carpentry, tinsmithy and allied works. They make and model cart-lamps, containers, funnels, oil cans etc. They also prepare ploughshares, knives of various shapes and sizes and domestic tools. In 1961 there were 4,251 persons who followed this profession in all seasons of the year.

146. Goldsmiths and Silversmiths

A few establishments of goldsmiths and silversmiths are located in urban areas. Most of the establishments are family concerns. Nowadays it is a tendency among the goldsmiths to have their establishments in the market area. But this is possible only with the well-to-do among them. The smiths prepare and remodel gold and silver ornaments and set stones. They also make silver vessels and medals and enamel and engrave letters and designs on jewellery.

The industry is subject to seasonal fluctuations in demand. The business is poor in the rainy season and brisk during marriage occasions.

In 1961, there were 458 persons who followed this profession as means of their livelihood.

147. Carpenters

The carpenters make and repair wooden structures and articles using hand tools. They also make and repair doors, door-frames, windows and other building fixtures. The village carpenters make ploughs, carts, cart-wheels and other agricultural and domestic articles. There are a few carpentry units organised by the Government where carpenters work with machines.

According to 1961 Census there were 658 persons, who followed this occupation.

148. Potters and Brick-layers

The potters shape and form articles by moulding clay in the centre of a rotating wheel.

The brick-layers prepare bricks and tiles of various shapes and sizes using appropriate moulds.

According to 1961 Census there were 3,448 persons who worked as potters and brick-layers.

149. Bakers and Sweetmeat makers

The sweet-makers prepare various kinds of sweets and sell either by displaying in shops or by hawking in the streets. They are known as *gudia* by caste. Some of them are employed in hotels and restaurants. They are specially employed by individuals who have to feed large numbers on festive occasions.

According to 1961 Census there were 1,908 persons who were either bakers or sweet-makers.

150. Barbers

Many hair-cutting saloons have been started in urban areas in recent years, most of the shops engaging 2 to 4 persons.

The services of the village barbers are mostly traditional. In marriage and sacred thread ceremonies their services are essential. The wives of the barbers go to attend the call of the women-folk. They are paid generally in kind.

According to 1961 Census there were 408 persons who followed this occupation.

151. Washermen

In the town the number of laundries are on the increase. Their charges are generally higher. All the laundries are family concerns, where the owner with the help of his family carries on the business. In rural areas the services of a washerman like that of a barber, are traditional. They are sometimes paid in the shape of rice or paddy.

According to 1961 Census there were 563 persons having this occupation.

152. Basket Weaving

This occupation is mostly followed by the Scheduled Caste people.

The bamboo workers make bamboo furniture by sizing and dressing bamboo pieces. The basket-makers weave baskets from bamboo wickers, wild reeds and cane. The broom makers make their tapered wickers out of bamboo or palm leaf and fit wooden pieces inside.

According to 1961 Census 5,970 persons were engaged in this occupation.

153. Domestic Servants

Cooks, water-carriers, orderlies, watchmen and other indoor servants are included in this class. These are mainly employed by rich and well-to-do people. The cooks are paid in cash and food. The water-carriers bring water from tanks, wells or streams. The domestic servants wash utensils, wash clothes, clean floors and sometimes take care of babies.

According to 1961 Census 2,406 persons were engaged in domestic services.

154. Photographers

The photographers take photos of objects, places and persons on commercial basis. They develop films, touch negatives and print photographs in a studio. There were 10 photographers in 1961.

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

According to 1961 Census there were 15,265 persons (male, 6,338, female 8,927) who were working either as spinners, weavers, knitters or dyers and in other related works. Out of them 1,545 persons (male 164, female 1,381) were working as spinners, piecers and winders and 6,882 persons (male 4,273, female 2,609) as drawers and weavers. Most of them were working in manufacturing cotton tassar or jute textiles.