

## CHAPTER VIII

### MISCELLANEOUS OCCUPATIONS

A major portion of working population is engaged in agriculture as it is the mainstay of life of the people in the district. Industries, banking, transport, communications, trade and commerce, etc., are also some other sectors of economy which provide opportunity to considerable number of workers for their living. These are discussed in relevant chapters of this volume. This chapter deals with persons employed in miscellaneous occupations like public administration, learned professions (teachers, doctors, lawyers, engineers, etc.) and domestic and personal services.

#### Public Administration

Both the educated and uneducated people prefer jobs in the public administration departments because they get service security and other benefits. According to the report on "the Census of Employees", published by the Bureau of Statistics and Economics, Orissa, the following table indicates the number of persons engaged in 291 of the 370 State Government establishments in the district as on the 31st March, 1981.

I. Sanctioned strength	.. (a) Gazetted	1,399
	(b) Non-Gazetted	15,000
	<b>Total</b>	<b>16,399</b>
II. In position	.. (a) Gazetted	1,269
	(b) Non-Gazetted	14,201
	<b>Total</b>	<b>15,470</b>

#### Amenities provided to government servants

The State Government employees get a number of facilities. They are eligible for dearness allowance from time to time, festival advances and loans for purchase of cycles and motor vehicles. They also get house building advances at a lower rate of interest. Quarters are provided to most of them on payment of rent at subsidised rates. If quarters are not available, the employees

are allowed to draw house rent at 15 per cent of their basic salaries. A State Government employee is eligible for earned leave, medical leave and casual leave. Besides, the employees get facilities for reimbursement of the cost of medicines purchased in connection with the treatment of self and dependant members of their families. The State Government employees are also allowed to encash earned leave to the extent of 30 days in a block period of two years. This scheme has been operating since 1973. They can avail of leave travel concession. Group Insurance scheme has been made compulsory for the benefit of the family members of deceased government employees. There are provisions of pension including family pension, commutation of pension, gratuity, and encashment of leave salary for a government employee when he retires from service.

The Central Government employees, the bank employees and the employees of corporations have their respective rules for advances, allowances, leave, medical relief, provident fund, gratuity, bonus, etc.

### **Employees' Organisation**

Most of the employees have formed unions to safeguard their service interests. They form associations for recreational and cultural purposes too. Some of the associations of State Government employees are Non-Gazetted Employees' Association, Stenographers' Association, Typists' Association, Orissa State Ministerial Officers' Association, Orissa Administrative Officers' Association, Section Officers' Association, Orissa State Subordinate Engineers Association, Orissa State Class IV Employees' Association, etc. The employees working under the Government of India and different commercial banks have their own associations also.

### **Learned Profession**

Legal, medical, teaching, agriculture, veterinary, artists, writers, engineering, etc., are included under learned profession.

### **Legal profession**

The legal profession includes lawyers and their clerks and petition writers. These people serve their clients in securing justice on civil, criminal and revenue matters according to the prevailing Acts and Rules. They mostly live in urban areas where the courts are situated. The lawyers have their associations and practices in different courts of the district located at places like Brahmapur, Diga-pahandi, Chhatrapur, Bhanjanagar, Paralakhemundi, Asika, Sorada,

Kodala, R. Udaya and Khallikot. The new entrants in this profession face difficulties at the outset. Since this is an independent profession, a number of persons are attached to it. The amount of fees charged by a lawyer varies according to the nature of the case and proficiency of the lawyer.

Senior lawyers have engaged one or more clerks under them. The number of legal practitioners in the district of Ganjam upto 1989 as reported by the Secretary, Bar Council, Orissa, Cuttack was 1934 out of whom 21 were females.

### Teaching Profession

Among all the professions, the educational service has attracted a large number of persons. The teachers work in various educational institutions and play a significant role in the social and cultural life of the people. 13,913 persons were engaged in teaching profession in the district during 1986-87 of which 893 were college, 3,059 high english school, 2,438 middle english school and 7,523 primary school teachers.

Previously, the pay and allowances of teachers was not at all attractive. A teacher was a poorly paid employee. The salary they received was not sufficient to maintain the minimum standard of living. Most of them, preferred private tuition or other part-time occupations to supplement their income. Now due to the sanction of revised pay scale their service conditions have improved, but the practice of supplementing their income by private tuition continues.

### Veterinary Profession

Prior to independence no proper care was taken for the sick live-stock and poultry. Now a days several schemes have been undertaken in the field of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary service for the development of live-stock and poultry. Veterinary Doctors, Live-stock Inspectors and other technicians have been posted in different parts of the district for the above purpose. In 1988-89, 456 persons were engaged in the veterinary profession, out of which 79 were veterinary doctors. The rest were live-stock inspectors, stockmen and technicians attached to different hospitals, dispensaries and other institutions of the district.

### Medical Profession

Persons practising mainly allopathic, homoeopathic and ayurvedic system of medicines are included in medical profession. Altogether 2,144 persons were engaged in different allopathic hospitals and

dispensaries in the district in 1988-89. The break-up of persons engaged in the allopathic medicine is given below:

Sl. No.	Category of staff	Number
1.	Doctors	568
2.	Radiographers	11
3.	Laboratory Assistants	15
4.	Laboratory Technicians	80
5.	Pharmacists	128
6.	Nurses	230
7.	Lady Health Visitors	98
8.	Sanitary Inspectors	140
9.	Vaccinators	128
10.	Multipurpose workers (male and female)	746
<b>Total</b>		<b>2,144</b>

Besides allopathic profession, homoeopathic and ayurvedic professions are also gaining popularity. In rural areas people are much interested in and accustomed to the ayurvedic system of medicines. Homoeopathy is less costlier than the other two systems of medicine. There were 36 Kavirajs working in 35 ayurvedic dispensaries and 32 homoeopathic doctors working in 30 homoeopathy dispensaries in the district during 1985-86. This apart, a good number of both registered and unregistered doctors are also practising in the above two branches of medicine privately.

The economic condition of the allopathic doctors, in general, is good. Experienced doctors who have taken up private practices earn more than the new entrants.

### Engineering Profession

Services of engineers, surveyors, draftsmen, tracers, plumbers and electricians and other technical personnel are necessary to carry out various developmental activities in the district. They mainly discharge their duties under various state public works organisations like Public Health Department, Electricity, Irrigation and Agriculture Department and also in different Government of Orissa undertakings. Besides, engineers are also employed in Government of India organisations like telecommunication and railways. Some major and medium industries of the district have also engaged engineering staff. The strength of engineers in the district in 1988-89 was about 1,000.

### Domestic and Personal services

The profession includes the services of domestic servants and persons engaged in personal services. Barbers, washermen, tailors, etc., come under latter categories. These professions have undergone a remarkable change with the changing of social and economic pattern of the society.

#### Domestic servants

Persons engaged in domestic services include house-keepers, cooks, maids and related workers. According to the Census of 1961, their number in the district was 4,928. Among them 4,233 were males and 695 females. Their number must necessarily have considerably increased by now. Due to change in the enumerating pattern of the subsequent censuses and in the absence of any other enumerating agency, it is not possible to specifically state the number of persons engaged in the above profession at present. The nature of work of a domestic servant in rural area is different from that of his counterpart in urban area. In rural areas, domestic servants are employed during the agricultural season. But in urban areas domestic servants are employed on full-time or part-time basis for attending to various domestic works and are also engaged in hotels and restaurants. Domestic service as a means of livelihood or even supplementing the income of the family is becoming less and less attractive. Employment in hotels and restaurants is preferred. Employment in Government organisations or in the private sector is the dominating ambition of the majority of the class.

The wages of domestic servants are not attractive but they mostly get the facilities of free fooding, clothing, etc. Domestic servants in rural areas are paid either in cash or in kind whereas in urban areas they are paid in cash only.

#### Hair-cutting

Hair-cutting is the traditional occupation of the barbers. In rural areas barbers usually go from door to door with a small wooden box containing necessary instruments of hair-cutting and shaving. Sometimes they are employed on yearly basis and are paid in kind. In urban areas barbers are seen establishing saloons generally in a wooden cabin or a rented house. Usually the owner works in his saloon. But in a big establishment with modern amenities experienced and trained artisans are employed with good cash wages. In saloons normally the barbers presently charge Rs. 4.50 for hair-cutting and Rs. 2.50 for shaving. According to reports received from different

municipalities and Notified Area Councils of the district, 350 saloons are functioning in the urban areas in 1985-86. Monthly income of the owner of a saloon varies from Rs. 500 to Rs. 1,500.

With the establishment of hair-cutting saloons, the practice of barbers going from door to door, especially in towns, is fast vanishing.

### **Laundry**

Previously washing of clothes was the hereditary occupation of the Dhobis or washermen both in urban and rural areas. They used to collect clothes going from house to house and return them after washing. Though this practice is still continuing in rural areas, laundries are opened in urban areas of the district. Both in urban and rural areas Dhobis are still engaged in this profession. Most of the laundries are family concerns where the owner with the help of his family members carries on the profession. Big establishments employ a few workers on monthly payment basis. According to the 1961 Census, the number of persons engaged in this occupation in the district was 8,346.

According to reports furnished by different municipalities and Notified Area Councils of the district, 150 laundries were functioning during 1985-86. The average income of a laundry owner varies from Rs. 500 to Rs. 1,500 per month.

### **Tea Stall**

During last few decades drinking of tea has become very popular both in the villages and towns. To meet the increasing demand, tea stalls are coming up in almost every part of the district.

For preparation of tea, the proprietor has to depend on milk and sugar. Due to scarcity of milk, the tea stalls also use milk powder for preparing tea and coffee. Normally the cost of a cup of tea varies between 50 paise to 75 paise. A cup of coffee costs between Rs. 1 to 1.50 paise. The price varies according to the quantity and quality of tea and coffee served. Most of these stalls also sell light refreshments for the convenience of customers. The monthly income of these establishments depend upon their size and locality in which they are situated. In order to maintain a stall, the owner generally engages one or two persons to help him in his work, like serving tea or coffee to the customers and to wash utensils, etc.

According to reports furnished by different urban local bodies of the district, 925 tea shops were functioning during 1985-86. The average income of tea stall owners varies from Rs. 300 to Rs. 1,000 per month.

### **Pan-Bidi shops**

Pan-Bidi shops are found in large numbers in the district. These are generally run by the owners on a raised platform or in a wooden cabin, especially by the side of hotels, film houses, railway stations, bus stands, near office areas, etc. In 1985-86, there were 1,500 such shops in the urban areas according to reports furnished by the municipalities and Notified Area Councils of the district. Monthly income of these establishments, which ranges from Rs. 500/- to Rs. 1,500/- depend mostly upon the size of the shops and the locality in which they are situated.

### **Cycle-repairing shops**

Bicycle, as a cheap and ready means of transport, is used mostly by less income groups and school and college students and to repair these two-wheelers, cycle-repairing shops have been established in almost all parts of the district. In many shops boys are employed to help the owner of the shop in repairing cycles. The gross income of the owner varies from Rs. 250/- to Rs. 800/- per month. Some cycle-repairing shops also undertake repairing of stoves, gas and torch lights.

### **Tailoring**

Tailors have become indispensable to the modern society. A large number of tailoring shops are found in urban areas and a few in rural areas.

It is found that a small tailoring shop usually owns one sewing machine whereas a medium sized shop has three to six machines. Small boys do minor works like fixing buttons and repairing of garments. Well established concerns employ eight to ten workers. Some of the workers are paid at piece-rates while others are paid on salary basis. The stitching charges vary from place to place and also from one tailor to another according to the skill and reputation. The monthly income of a tailoring shop ranges between Rs. 500 to Rs. 3,000. Due to availability of readymade garments for children and ladies, this profession is becoming less attractive day by day.

According to reports submitted by the municipalities and Notified Area Councils, 1,590 tailoring shops are functioning in the district during 1985-86.

### **Radio and Television repairing**

With the spread of radio and television net work, there is a great demand for radio and television sets and also shops to repair them. There were about 142 radio and television repairing

shops in the urban areas of the district in 1985-86. In many shops mechanics and helpers are employed to help the owner in repairing of radio and television sets. The gross income of the owner varies from Rs. 500 to Rs. 2,000 per month.

### **Horn craft**

Horn craft was originally known among the tribals of Paralakhemundi subdivision. During Second World War horn work from Paralakhemundi was exported to U. S. A. and Europe.

Horn products include comb, bird, crane, crab, crocodile, monkeys, camel, elephants, fighting bulls, the wise crow sitting on a pitcher, peacock, snake, prawns, statues and variety of lamp sheds, ash-trays, cigarette cases and pen stands. There is a co-operative society at Paralakhemundi known as Biswakarma Horn Crafts Co-operative Society. There were 35 horn craft shops in the urban areas of the district during 1985-86.

### **Bell-metal work**

Bellaguntha is famous for bell-metal works specially for flexible fish and snakes. Precious coloured stones are used for the eyes of the fish and snakes. Flexible metal fishes have good market in and outside the state. People buy bell-metal snakes mostly for Siva temples as offering for some favour. Besides Bellaguntha, the bell-metal works of Brahmapur, Asika and Bhanjanagar are also excellent. There were 60 bell-metal shops in the district in 1985-86 and most of these were located at Brahmapur and Bellaguntha.

### **Automobile Repairing Shops**

Automobile repairing shops are necessary for repairing scooters, motor cycles and other motor vehicles. According to the survey conducted by the municipalities and N.A. Cs. of Ganjam, 65 automobile repairing shops were in the district in 1985-86.

### **Drivers, Conductors and Cleaners**

With the rapid development of roads and transport services in recent years, the number of motor driving licences has gone up in recent years. 1685 licences were issued in the district during 1986 of which 1,632 were for heavy vehicles and 53 for light vehicles.

Besides, there are quite a large number of persons engaged in driving bullock carts and cycle rickshaws in both urban and rural areas of the district.

The Orissa Shops and Commercial Establishment Act, 1956 is in force in the district. The Labour Officer visits shops and commercial establishments 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 workers. In 1986-87, there were 872 shops, 635 commercial establishments and 170 industries which employed 3825, 3081 and 4401 workers respectively in the district.

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

Sl. No.	Occupations	Number of workers
(1)	(2)	(3)
1.	Blacksmiths, Hammersmiths and Forgemen ..	2,482
2.	Jewellers, Goldsmiths, Silversmiths ..	3,650
3.	Carpenters, Joiners, Cabinet makers, Coopers and related workers	3,631
4.	Basket weavers and related workers ..	6,783
5.	Millers, pounders, huskers and parchers of grains and related food workers	5,604
6.	Potters and related clay formers ..	5,536
7.	Spinners, weavers, knitters, dyers and related workers	4,159
8.	Fishermen and related workers ..	5,551
9.	Compositors, printers, engravers, book binders and related workers	251
10.	Hawkers, pedlars and street vendors ..	6,226
11.	Electricians and related electrical and electronics workers	401
12.	Loggers and other forestry workers ..	5,717
13.	Postmen and messengers ..	1,151
14.	Police Constables, Investigators and related workers	1,249
15.	Watchmen, Chowkidars and Darwans ..	2,015
16.	Stenographers and Typists ..	200
17.	Telephone, Telegraph and related telecommunication operators	20

As mentioned elsewhere in the chapter, due to change in the enumerating pattern of the subsequent censuses and in the absence of any other enumerating agencies, it is not possible to give the number of persons engaged in the above professions at present.