

CHAPTER VIII

MISCELLANEOUS OCCUPATIONS

119. General

A great majority of the population of Koraput district is dependent on agriculture and only a small per centage pursues non-agricultural occupations as means of livelihood. The Census of 1961 reveals that of the total population of 1,561,051 as many as 640,082 are mainly dependent on agriculture. This figure includes both cultivators and agricultural labourers.

Of the total population, 0·7 per cent works in mining, quarrying, livestock, forestry, fishing, plantation, orchards and allied activities. At household industry there are 1·9 per cent of workers. In manufacturing other than household industry the number of workers is 0·3 per cent. In construction 0·1 per cent, in trade and commerce 0·7 per cent, in transport, storage and communication 0·2 per cent and in other services 7·4 per cent of workers are working in the district. Besides, 45·9 per cent of the total population of the district is economically passive having no income of its own and entirely dependent on other resources. Children, full-time students, old men, rentiers, women, beggars and vagrants mostly constitute this class.

The following table shows the number of female workers per 1,000 male workers in each industrial category :

Category of occupation	Number of female workers per 1,000 male workers
Cultivators ..	569
Agricultural labourers ..	891
In mining, quarrying, livestock, forestry, fishing, plantation, orchards and allied activities.	411
At household industry ..	722
In manufacturing other than household industry ..	826
In construction ..	175
In trade and commerce ..	637
In transport, storage and communication ..	15
In other services ..	772
Total workers ..	649

The percentage of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes people engaged in different occupations is as shown below :

Among 51.7 per cent of workers in the Scheduled Castes 22.3 per cent belongs to the category of cultivation; 10.3 to the category of agricultural labour ; 1.5 per cent to the category of mining, quarrying, livestock, forestry, fishing, plantation, orchards and allied activities; 4.5 per cent to the category of household industry; 0.3 per cent to the category of manufacturing other than household industry ; 0.2 per cent to the category of construction ; 1.4 per cent to the category of trade and commerce; 0.1 per cent to the category of transport, storage and communication; 1.1 per cent to the category of other services. Besides, 48.3 per cent of persons is economically passive.

Among 57.3 per cent of workers in the Scheduled Tribes, 37.2 per cent belongs to the category of cultivation; 11.6 per cent to the category of agricultural labour ; 0.6 per cent to the category of mining, quarrying, livestock, forestry, fishing, plantation, orchards and allied activities; 1.0 per cent to the category of household industry; 0.2 per cent to the category of manufacturing other than household industry; 0.2 per cent to the category of trade and commerce; 6.5 per cent to the category of other services. The percentage of workers working in construction and transport, storage and communication is negligible. Rest 42.7 per cent of the population is economically passive.

It has been observed that among the Scheduled Tribes who constitute the bulk of the population, artisan classes, such as barbers, oilmen, carpenters, washermen and the like are not generally found. Only a few people belonging to these service castes, found scattered today, are more or less recent emigrants from the plains. But their services are mostly confined to the non-Adivasi people and have little to do with the Scheduled Tribes. The tribal having very few wearing apparels does not require the services of a washerman. Whatever washing is required is done while taking his bath. He similarly does not require a barber; hair-dressing is done by a helping hand. In his society money is scarce and to purchase the services of others is not easy for him. Artisan classes have not practically developed. Barring a few castes like the Dombs, who weave, the Kamaras or the pot-makers and the Sundhis, who deal in liquor, multiplicity of artisan and other service castes is not a feature of the Adivasi community. Among the non-Adivasis on the other hand, many artisan castes are found and in this regard they are not very much different from the people of the coastal areas but the general practice elsewhere of paying annual remuneration to village artisans is not common.

The influx of people from the plains, with different occupations unknown to Adivasis is steadily on the increase. Although new spheres of economic activity with different avocations are opened, the Adivasis

fail to take benefit of them. As a result carpenters, masons and others of border districts have come in large numbers to perform many development works. Efforts are being made by the Government as well as by private organisations to teach the Adivasis different crafts in the Ashram and Sevashram Schools. Stipends and other aids are provided to Adivasi students to encourage education among them and they are liberally treated in appointments to various jobs.

While considering this district as a whole from the point of view of the occupations of its people, many occupations deserve notice, although persons employed or engaged in them are mostly of one stock, the non-Adivasis.

Different occupations in the district are discussed below.

120. Public Administration

(i) Union Government employment

Prior to the inauguration of Dandakaranya Project almost all of the Union Government employees were of the two essential services, the Railways and the Posts & Telegraphs. With the opening of the Project their number has greatly swelled. These employees receive higher pay compared with employees of the State Government. They are bound by the same service conditions which are common throughout the Union. Besides, they receive an Agency allowance for working here. Employees under the Dandakaranya Project enjoy all the emoluments and facilities that a Union Government employee is entitled to and also receive Project allowance. According to 1961 Census there are 571 employees who are administrators and executive officials of the Central Government.

(ii) State Government employment

The persons employed under the State Government enjoy certain amenities and privileges which are shared by their compeers in other districts of the State. Besides, the employees are getting an Agency allowance in some parts of the district for the unhealthiness of climate. But Koraput is now one of the healthiest headquarters of Orissa with a crisp cold weather, a mild summer and effective mosquito control. It can as well be called a hill station.

Many of the State Government employees belong to the Revenue Department. Besides, there are many employees of different Departments. The employees of the Aero-engine Factory and Balimela Project are receiving Project allowance according to their scale of pay. They are also getting higher emoluments. The clerical staff in the Collectorate are known as Ministerial officers. There is an organisation

of the clerical staff called Ministerial Officers' Association which looks after different problems of its members. This Association is the district branch of an All-Orissa Organisation of the same name.

Many of the Gazetted and non-Gazetted officials are provided with Government quarters on payment of a reasonable rent fixed according to pay. In spite of such facilities provided for a cross section of the public employees the housing accommodation is still a continuing problem.

According to 1961 Census there are 1,071 employees who are administrators and executive officials of the State Government.

(iii) Local Self-Government employment

There are four types of Local Self-Government bodies in this district. They have been discussed elaborately in Chapter XIV. They are :

- (1) Zilla Parishad which has replaced the old District Board
- (2) Municipality of Jeypore
- (3) Notified Area Councils
- (4) Grama Panchayats and Panchayat Samitis

The Zilla Parishad deals with management of various types of Primary Schools with its manifold works. The number of employees under the Zilla Parishad is on increase. Facilities of Provident Fund, leave, etc., are open to the employees but no pension is allowed.

In the sphere of Local Self-Government 969 persons are enlisted, including elected and nominated members of local bodies as well as salaried officers of the Government.

121. Legal practice

In 1953 the normal judicial administration was introduced in the district by extending the Legal Practitioners Act of 1879. The Agent was given the power to appoint any person as a Pleader by granting him a Sanad. The Agency Sanad-holders were the only Lawyers for a pretty length of time. Almost all of them knew no English and conducted cases in Oriya or Telugu. Till 1930 there were no qualified persons practising in the district. Later when qualified persons began to practise they had also to take an Agency Sanad, though in their case grant of Sanad was a matter of routine.

The Bar is mainly a creation after 1936 when the district was formed and included in Orissa. Since then qualified Pleaders began to set up practice at Gunupur and Rayagada and their number at Jeypore increased. The transfer of Agency Subordinate Judge Court to Jeypore in 1936 and the creation of the District and Sessions Court in 1953 were the chief causes of the growth of the Bar.

Most of the Lawyers are stationed at Jeypore where District and Sessions Judge's Court and Munsif's Court besides Criminal Courts are located. Their number for five years is as given below :

Year		Advocates	Pleaders	Mukhtars
1955	..	6	13	8
1956	..	6	13	7
1957	..	6	15	6
1958	..	6	15	6
1959	..	7	16	6

Advocates are allowed to appear in both Civil and Criminal Courts and when they earn proficiency in a particular sphere their practice is more centered in that sphere.

The Judges and Magistrates hold courts of law and decide civil, criminal and other cases filed in the courts.

The Petition-writers write petitions, applications, statements, etc., on behalf of the litigants and charge them according to rate fixed by Court.

According to 1961 Census there are 35 persons among whom are included Judges and Magistrates, Advocates and Petition-writers.

122. Medical practice

There has been a rapid increase in the number of persons following medical profession. Of the qualified medical practitioners only a few are private physicians practising in urban areas specially at Jeypore and Rayagada. Among the Medical Officers working under the Government, those who are posted to Primary Health Centres get Non-practicing allowance with their pay. There are 105 male and 9 female allopathic doctors as known from the 1961 Census. Besides, there are 250 Ayurvedic and 636 Homeopathic doctors practising in the district.

The nurses give bedside care to the patients and assist the doctors in operation theatre and in recording temperature, respiration, pulse rate, etc., of the patients. Besides, they also render antenatal care to the expectant mothers and post-natal care after confinement. There are also many ward-boys who generally look after the male patients and keep the wards clean. There are 153 ward-boys and 129 nurses working in the district.

Lady Health Visitors are posted in the Primary Health Centres attached to the Community Development Blocks. They visit patients within their jurisdictions, render antenatal care and advice to expectant mothers and conduct simple delivery cases. They also conduct sewing and First-Aid classes at Welfare Centres and give Family Planning advice.

The compounders dispense medicines as prescribed by the doctors. They store and arrange drugs, powders, ointments and prepare mixtures. The experienced compounders also earn by private practice in simple cases.

There are 184 compounders in the district. Most of them are Government employees or retired persons.

123. Teachers

There has been a considerable increase in the number of person engaged in educational service in the district. This is a result of the increasing provision of educational facilities through Sevashram Schools and Secondary, Middle and Primary Schools. More attention is now paid to technical education. It is found that more and more women are entering the teaching profession. According to 1961 Census there are 2,449 male and 252 female teachers, out of whom 342 and 16 are Secondary School teachers and 2,082 and 232 are in Middle and Primary Schools. There are a few Lecturers teaching in the Vikram Dev College at Jeypore.

124. 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 avocations of this class, as principal means of livelihood :

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

Name of occupation	Male	Female	Urban areas	
			Male	Female
Architects, Engineers and Surveyors.	193	..	50	..
Social Scientists	915	51	53	..
Artists, writers & related workers.	88	16	..	16
Painters	..	4	..	..

The above table reveals that there are 1.1 per cent of workers engaged in the profession of the architects, engineers and surveyors. And there are 0.6 per cent of workers who are artists, writers and related.

workers, out of which 0·1 per cent are authors who produce original literary works, 0·1 per cent are sculptors and modellers, 0·3 per cent are musicians and related workers and 0·1 per cent dancers. The percentage of those engaged in painting, commercial art and journalism are negligible.

125. Priests, Astrologers and Palmists

Religion has been a full-time occupation and the main source of income for some persons in the district. Of such persons, the most numerous are the priests. The priests conduct worship and perform rites in accordance with religious scriptures and recognised practices in temple, church or mosque. They are called Pujari, Padre and Imam according to faith or denomination to which they belong. The non-ordained religious persons assist the ordained ones in conducting worship and perform rites on occasions like marriage and death. Among the Hindus there are several persons who practise the art of astrology and palmistry. The astrologers prepare horoscopes of persons showing positions of planets at the time of birth and interpret horoscopes to tell past events in their lives and predict future. The palmists interpret lines and other symbols on palms of persons. They also practise the art of fortune-telling from the facial signs and prepare talismen, charms, etc. There are 253 persons following the profession, who constitute nearly 1·6 per cent of the working force.

126. Fishermen

The fishermen, known as *Keutas*, catch fish in rivers, tanks, channels or confluences by using different types of fishing implements and laying nets in water. There are 159 persons in the district who are following this occupation.

127. Drivers

The chauffeurs drive motor-cars according to owner's requirement as paid employees. They are experienced in driving on hills and Ghat roads. There are also a few taxis plying in the district. The bus-drivers drive omnibus to transport passengers from place to place. They are experienced in driving at night over long distance on Ghat roads and are able to do running repairs. The truck-drivers are transporting goods from place to place. There are 200 persons or 1·2 per cent of the working force in this occupation.

Out of the total workers 0·2 per cent (or 29 persons) are cycle-rickshaw-pullers plying rickshaws on hire or as paid employees for transporting passengers and light goods. They are working mostly in urban areas.

Besides, there are a few persons who are plying carriages, carts or other vehicles drawn by animals. The Mahouts ride and lead elephants to transport men and goods through deep forests and impenetrable

paths. They also train elephants for ceremonial occasions, processions and for specific works, e.g., log felling, lifting, stacking, etc. According to 1961 Census, there are 30 persons following this occupation. They groom and feed elephants. There are a few Doli or Palki bearers who carry palanquin or Doli on shoulders in group of two or more, for transporting one or more persons from one place to another in plains or hills. There are 41 boatmen who are carrying passengers and goods through waterways and 70 railway engine drivers in the district.

128. Tailors

Tailoring is attracting an increasing number of persons in urban area and consequently a greater number of tailoring firms are being established in Jeypore, Koraput and Rayagada towns. A majority of the firms are small establishments where the owners, with the help of one or two relatives, carry on the work. There are quite a few one-man establishments. In large concerns about 5 to 6 persons are engaged. The occupation provides whole-time employment throughout the year. Some of the tailoring shops are housed in rented buildings.

The value of the business done daily varies from Rs. 4 to Rs. 15 according to the size and the business of the firms. During the marriage season and other festive occasions tailors have a brisk business to the tune of Rs. 20 to Rs. 30 per day.

There are 587 persons or 2.7 per cent of the working force who are working in this occupation in the district.

129. Cobblers

The cobblers or Mochis recondition old, worn out or defective footwears to make them serviceable. They perform other repairing jobs, such as attaching heel and toe cleats, stitching ripped seams, patching holes and shining shoes. The experienced cobblers make complete footwears performing various operations by hand such as cutting various shoe components, lasting of shoe, tacking sole to upper, nailing or fixing heel, trimming edges and finishing and polishing shoes using hand tools. They prepare footwears like chappels and sandals.

The value of business done daily varies from Re. 1 to Rs. 3 according to the nature of work. There are 411 persons or 2.4 per cent of the working force who are earning their livelihood by this occupation.

130. Blacksmiths

The village blacksmiths forge domestic and agricultural articles, used in villages, by repeated heating and hammering. They heat metal in the furnace to required degree of temperature and hold it on anvil with tongs and get it hammered to desired shape and size. They fit metal tyres on cart wheels and shape and fit iron shoes on hooves of

animals. They are also experienced in simple carpentry, tinsmithy and allied works. They make and repair cart-lamps, containers, funnels, oil-canes, siphons, etc., from thin mild steel, galvanised or other sheets according to instructions for commercial and domestic use. As gathered from 1961 Census, there are 4,157 persons or 24.5 per cent of the workers in the district who are taking up this as a whole-time profession. They are getting works in all the seasons of the year.

131. Goldsmiths and Silversmiths

There are quite a few establishments of goldsmiths and silversmiths in urban areas. Rayagada being a commercial and trading centre, naturally attracts more persons to this occupation than Jeypore. Most of the establishments are family concerns, where the owners carry on the work with the help of their sons, brothers or other male relatives. Of late there has been a tendency among the goldsmiths to have their establishments in the market area. But this is true only with the rich goldsmiths. The smiths make and mend gold and silver ornaments, and work in precious stones. These goldsmiths and silversmiths prepare silver vessels, and silver and gold ornaments of different designs. They are also enamelling and engraving letters and designs on jewellery.

The initial capital outlay required is not much. The equipments are simple. They consist chiefly of anvil, bellows, hammers, pincers, pots and crucibles, moulds and nails and other equipment for ornamental work and cup-boards, etc. The cost of equipment ranges from Rs. 100 to Rs. 500.

Precious metals, chemicals for purifying gold, polishing material, charcoal, etc., are the materials required by the goldsmiths. The goldsmiths have to spend a small portion of their earnings on these materials.

The industry is subject to marked seasonal fluctuations in demand. The months of rainy season are dull and depressing. Demand begins to look up after rainy season and is very brisk during marriage season.

The market is mainly local. People from surrounding villages come to place orders with the goldsmiths.

There are 734 goldsmiths and silversmiths (or 4.3 per cent) who are taking up this profession as means of their whole-time occupation.

132. Carpenters

The carpenters make, assemble, alter 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 and such other agricultural and domestic articles by using hand tools. They build wooden bamboo structures for hand or animal-drawn vehicles and construct wooden wheels.

By 1951 there were 138 persons engaged in carpentry. Due to implementation of the Dandakaranya Project and other development works their number is now increasing. By 1961 there were 573 persons who were following this occupation as a whole-time employment.

133. Potters and Brick-layers

The potters shape and form articles from clay by moulding clay in centre of a flat-wheel. They revolve the wheel with treadle or by giving quick turns to it using stick. They make and fashion wares of desired shape and size out of revolving wheel by softening clay with water and manipulating it by hands. They cut the ware from its base with wet thread and remove it to dry.

The brick-layers mould by hands bricks and tiles of various shapes and sizes using appropriate moulds.

According to 1961 Census, there are 3,297 persons working as potters and brick-layers in the district.

134. Bakers and Sweetmeat-makers

The bakers make bread, cakes, biscuits and other products by mixing ingredients, such as flour, sugar, water and yeast into dough. The sweet-makers are preparing different varieties of sweets and are usually selling by opening stalls in front of their houses or hawking through the streets. They are *Gudia* by caste. Some of them are employed in hotels and restaurants. On marriage occasions they are called to homes to prepare sweetmeats on contract basis. On festive occasions they prepare a large quantity of sweetmeats of different shapes and kinds and earn a daily income of Rs. 5 to Rs. 10.

There are 850 persons or 5.0 per cent of the working force who are either bakers or sweet-makers.

135. Beedi and Tobacco preparers

The beedi-makers make beedis by hand from Kendu leaves. They soak the leaves in water and cut into pieces according to appropriate size by tin stencils. Then they put the filling tobacco and roll it with fingers to make beedi of desired shape and size. The rolled beedis are tied into bundles and labels are pasted over.

The snuff-makers make snuff from tobacco. They roast the cut tobacco in pan and grind the toasted tobacco into fine powder with which they mix lime, ghee and other ingredients. The snuff powder is flavoured with scent.

By 1961 there were 833 persons engaged in this occupation and 3.1 per cent and 1.8 per cent were working as beedi-makers and snuff-preparers, respectively.

136. Hair-cutters

There are a few hair-cutting saloons started in the urban areas in recent years as there is a tendency among the barbers to have fixed establishments in some important locality. Most of the shops are small establishments each engaging 1 to 3 persons. Generally they are family concerns where the owners with the help of their male relatives run the shops. Only in a few saloons outside workers are employed. But even in such saloons the owners work side by side with their employees.

The following service charges are current :

Chin-shaving with trimming of Re. 0.12 P. to Re. 0.20 P.
moustaches.

Hair-cutting .. Re. 0.37 P. to Re. 0.50 P.

Hair-cutting and chin-shaving .. Re. 0.50 P.

All persons cut their hair in the saloons except the rich, high Government officials and the orthodox people. Such persons call barbers to their residences for shaving and cutting of hair as well as for massaging the body with oil.

The village barbers move from street to street to attend the calls.

The Oriya and Telugu Bhandari caste people pursue the occupation. In ceremonies like *Upanayan* and marriage and even in funerals the presence and services of a barber are essential.

According to 1961 Census, there are 203 persons (or 1.2 per cent) engaged in this occupation.

137. Washermen

The washermen can be divided into two classes, those who carry on the work of washing, cleaning and ironing of clothes at home and those who have shops of their own in the bazar area. In the town areas the number of laundries is increasing. All the laundries are family concerns, where the owner with the help of his family members carries on the business. The Oriya and Telugu Dhobas pursue the occupation. The services of a washerman like that of a barber are traditional especially in rural areas where they are sometimes paid in terms of rice or paddy.

According to 1961 Census, 2,967 persons are engaged in laundry service. In 1951 Census, 2,124 persons were engaged in this service.

138. Basket-weaving

This occupation is mostly followed by the Scheduled Caste people.

The bamboo workers make bamboo furniture by sizing and dressing bamboo wickers and also make baskets of willow, reed and cane.

The broom-makers make thin tapering wickers out of bamboo, coconut-leaf or palm-leaf and fit wooden pieces inside. They also prepare brooms out of a special type of grass grown in the forest. The grass looks like the stem portion of the paddy plant with flowers on the top which resemble the flowers of sugercane plant. The reeds are very strong with a yellowish green tint. Those are called the Phula-jhadus (flower-broom).

By 1961 there were 3,042 persons engaged in this occupation.

139. Domestic servants

Cooks, water-carriers, gate-men, watchmen and other indoor servants are included in this class. These persons are mainly employed by rich people. The cooks are of two types—those who serve regularly in private houses throughout the year, and those who are mostly employed at the time of marriage and other festive occasions. The latter are generally male cooks. Some of the cooks who serve regularly in private houses are women. The cooks are paid in cash and food.

The water-carriers bring water from nearby tanks, wells or streams. Water is carried in big pots of brass or earth.

The domestic servants clean utensils, wash clothes, sweep floors and sometimes take care of babies.

By 1961 there were 4,789 persons who were engaged in these services in the district.

140. Tattooing

Tattooing is practised by some Scheduled Caste women as part-time occupation. Kondh religious practices show a strong tendency towards tattooing. The clan totem is common to the whole clan and passes by inheritance from generation to generation, and binds the whole clan into a kind of blood relationship.

Some upper class Hindus also tattoo their hands, feet, foreheads and other parts of the body as a mark of decoration. The tattooing women pierce the skin with a needle, making the appropriate design and apply a kind of pigment which leaves a permanent mark on the skin.