

CHAPTER VIII

MISCELLANEOUS OCCUPATIONS

EARLIER chapters have dealt with the more important aspects of the district's economy, such as agriculture, industry, trade and commerce and transport and communications, in which a majority of the working population is engaged. Out of the total population of 10,94,284 (1961 Census) in Chitradurga district, 76.1 per cent depends directly or indirectly for its livelihood on cultivation, 7.8 per cent is engaged in industries, 3.2 per cent in trade and commerce and 0.6 per cent in transport. But this does not exhaust the whole field of economic activity and a considerable percentage of the population is engaged in other occupations like public administration, learned professions, fine arts, domestic service and certain other occupations which are attracting an increasing number of persons to urban areas. No detailed survey, either sociological or economic, has been undertaken about the various occupational groups in the district and in the absence of such a survey, any attempt to describe these groups would inevitably be limited in scope. The census of 1961, however, throws light, to some extent, on the livelihood pattern of the people in the district and it is on the basis of the figures, compiled in that census that the present description is based.

Public Administration.—Persons engaged in the several branches of public administration form an appreciable percentage of the population of this district. These are persons working in the various offices under the Central and State Governments, those working on the establishments of the various local bodies and the village officials. According to the census of 1961, there were 8,181 employees of the Government, inclusive of the Union Government, local bodies and village officers and servants including village watchmen. The majority of the persons employed in Government service or the service of the local bodies belong to the middle or lower-middle classes. Persons belonging to this category as also those employed in big industrial concerns enjoy certain benefits in the shape of dearness and other allowances. The Government have also been advancing liberal loans to Government employees to build their own houses under different schemes and are affording

various other amenities aimed at giving relief to low-paid employees.

**Learned
Professions**

Education.—Being one of the educationally forward districts of the Mysore State, about 25 per cent of the total population are literates. The 1961 Census records that there were in all 4,388 persons engaged in educational services and research. The number of persons unconnected with any educational institution but who followed the profession of private teaching was 250. Possibly with the increase in population and consequently the increase in the number of students, the number of persons engaged in educational services should also have registered an increase.

Medicine.—There were 334 men and 14 women engaged in the profession of medicine, surgery and dentistry in 1961. Out of these, 92 were allopathic physicians and surgeons, while the rest followed other systems including Ayurveda and Unani. Added to these, there were 465 nurses, midwives and other medical and health technicians of whom 138 were women.

Law.—The number of persons associated with the profession of law in the district in 1961 was 143. Out of this, 126 were legal practitioners. Law seems to have been a thriving profession in the district and quite a number of lawyers go out to take up cases in courts in other districts also.

Arts and Letters.—This category covers artists, writers and related workers. The census of 1961 has recorded that there were 409 persons belonging to this category out of whom 47 were women. Besides these, there were 58 photographers and allied workers; all of them except six lived in the urban areas.

**Domestic and
Personal
Services**

Domestic Services.—Under this group, domestic servants, cooks, barbers, tailors, washermen and the like are included. The total number of persons engaged under this group in 1961 was 11,110 of whom 6,110 were men and 5,000 were women. Only persons belonging to the higher income groups and middle-income groups could employ domestic servants and the lower-middle classes had to do without domestic servants. These servants were employed in general for work like cleaning the house, washing the utensils and other odd domestic jobs. The level of wages paid varied between Rs. 200 and Rs. 350 per annum, with food and clothing. Those who are not given food by the employers are paid a little more in the shape of wages. According to the 1961 Census, there were 925 cooks and cook-bearers (domestic and institutional) in the district, of whom 141 were women. These persons were paid between Rs. 45 and Rs. 75 a month. The number of motor-drivers and cleaners who are employed by a few rich people was, in 1961, only 218 in a population of 10,94,284.

Barbers.—The barber or 'nayinda' has a distinct role to play in the affairs of the Hindu family. The old practice of having a family barber is fast vanishing, but the presence of the barber is essential at certain religious ceremonies and rituals like Chudakarma, Upakarma, funerals and such other occasions. According to the census of 1961, there were 1,376 barbers of whom a majority were in the rural areas. The census has not recorded the number of hair-cutting saloons in the district. According to the figures obtained from the Inspectors of Shops and Establishments of Davangere and Chitradurga, there were at the beginning of 1966, 30 saloons at Chitradurga, 53 at Davangere, 17 at Harihar and 10 at Challakere. The number of saloons in the remaining places is not available as they have not come under the Shops and Establishments Act yet. But it may be said that there are not less than one dozen saloons in each of the other towns. There are not many hair-cutting saloons in the rural parts, where even to this day the barbers attend on their clients at the latter's houses. In towns, it has become customary for the people to go to the saloons for their hair-cut. But even in these places, the orthodox Hindus do not generally go to the saloons; they would much rather have their hair cut at their own houses. Of course, the payment for services rendered at home is naturally a little higher than at the saloons.

The equipment of saloons consisting of some furniture like chairs and tables, mirrors, scissors, razors and cropping machines and toilet requisites would be worth Rs. 250 in smaller establishments, Rs. 500 in the medium-sized establishments and Rs. 600 to Rs. 1,000 in the larger establishments. The number of customers served daily by these establishments depends on their size and also on their being in the vicinity of the bazaar area. Other factors like the conveniences and comforts offered, the popularity of the owner, the goodwill of the customers and the general reputation of the saloon also play their part.

Washermen.—There were 2,831 washermen and launderers in the district in 1961 of whom 1,744 were men and 1,087 women. The majority of these washermen live in rural areas. In the olden days, the washermen used to collect clothes from different houses and used to clean them in tanks or ponds with the help of a type of sand locally called as *choulu mannu*. Nowadays, they have taken to more efficient means of washing with the help of soda, soaps and other cleaning agents. A comparatively modern development in the profession is the establishment of laundries. In the laundries ironing is done in the shop itself while the washing is done at the banks of the rivers or in tanks.

The exact total number of laundries in the district is not known. But according to the figures given by the Inspectors of Shops and Establishments of Davangere and Chitradurga, there

were in the beginning of 1966, 61 laundries at Chitradurga, about 70 at Davangere, 15 at Challakere and 13 at Harihar. It may be presumed that there are about 15 to 20 laundries in the other towns. Accurate figures for these places are not available as they have not come under the Shops and Establishments Act so far. More than half of the workers engaged in this trade are paid employees, the rest being the owners and their family members. The establishments in the towns are fairly distributed over all the localities of the town. Most of the establishments are in rented buildings, the rent ranging from Rs. 20 to 50 a month. It is difficult to estimate correctly the monthly net income of these establishments, but it would not be incorrect if the income of the small-sized establishments is estimated to be between Rs. 100 and Rs. 200, and that of the medium-sized and large establishments from Rs. 200 to Rs. 500. The large establishments are those which have specialised in dry cleaning. We find a small number of this type of laundries with mechanised vacuum washing machines at Chitradurga, Davangere and Harihar.

Tailors.—The number of tailors, cutters and related workers in the district in 1961 was 3,913. The majority of them are to be found in the urban areas. The profession of tailoring is followed by individuals assisted by the members of their families. It is a full-time occupation providing employment throughout the year. Small establishments usually have only one sewing machine and besides the proprietor, who himself works at it, one or two boys are usually employed for buttoning and other minor work. A medium-sized establishment possesses two or three machines and employs about four to six persons, while a large establishment has more than six machines and employs about 10 to 12 persons.

The smaller establishments cannot afford to purchase the sewing machines outright and so they purchase them on instalment basis from the local agents of the manufacturing companies. A big establishment invests about Rs. 5,000 to Rs. 10,000 on sewing machines alone. Scissors, cutting table, cup-boards, ironing machines, mirrors and a few pieces of furniture costing in all about Rs. 2,000 are among the other materials needed. In the rural parts, tailoring is confined to the making of simple garments but in the urban areas, the tailoring firms specialise in stitching costly and varied types of clothes.

**Employment
in Hotels and
Restaurants**

Hotels and Restaurants.—In recent years, this occupation is being pursued by a large number of enterprising hoteliers who have started eating houses in every nook and corner of the urban areas. The number of hotels and restaurants in the whole of the district in January 1966 was 204 as per the figures supplied by the Labour Department and the majority of them were concentrated in Davangere, Chitradurga, Harihar, Hosadurga, Holalkere, Challakere and Hiriya. There are two types of hotels in the district,

one providing only snacks and the other providing meals, though some of the larger hotels combine both. The hotel hours are so arranged that at meal-time, no snacks are generally supplied. Hotels and restaurants in Davangere in particular compare favourable with the same kind of establishments in Bangalore, Mysore and such other places. Most of the hotels here are fairly clean and the food served is wholesome. Different types of meals are served; those who are in a hurry and/or want less costly meals are served with fewer items and lesser quantity and these are usually called plate-meals; others may take a full course meal served either in plates or on plantain leaves. Some hotels in Davangere and Chitradurga provide lodging facilities also.

According to the 1961 Census, there were 230 employers employing 1,234 men and 36 women workers in the district.

Most of the hotels and restaurants in the district have not invested large capital. They were started on a moderate scale and have developed with a spirit of competition. It is estimated that a sum of Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 15,000 is required to start a medium hotel catering for about 200 to 300 persons.

Bakeries.—Bakeries preparing soft bread and biscuits according to the oven method are found in only three places in the district, viz., Chitradurga, Davangere and Harihar. In all, there are about a dozen bakeries and out of them, four are in Davangere, three in Harihar and five in Chitradurga. They are housed in small rooms, the frontage of some rooms being used for vending purposes. Generally, the bakery is a one-man establishment, the proprietor being assisted by members of his family.

Basket-making—Basket-making has been one of the flourishing occupations in Chitradurga district. The census of 1961 has recorded that there were 3,968 basket-makers spread over the different parts of the district; 1,372 were men and 2,596 were women. A majority of these basket-makers belonged to the rural parts. The Medar community in the district has acquired a traditional skill and craftsmanship of a high order in this occupation. Basket-making being a hereditary occupation, the basket-makers have a sentimental attachment to the work which has been passed on to them from generation to generation. Persons engaged in this work are very poor and eke out a precarious livelihood. During harvest months, there is an increased demand for mats, baskets and such other articles. Grain-containers manufactured out of bamboo, locally called *galiges*, are a speciality of this district. Ladders, baskets and trays are among the other products manufactured. **Crafts**

Carpentry.—The number of carpenters and related workers, as stated in the census of 1961, was 2,514, of whom a majority lived

in the villages. Carpenters are skilled artisans and they play a vital role in the rural economy of the district. Furniture for domestic use like benches, chairs and tables, building equipments like doors and window frames, agricultural implements, carts and several other articles are manufactured by them. The carpenters work in groups as well as in family circles and generally, a carpenter earns about Rs. 3 to Rs. 6 a day.

Blacksmithy—The number of black-smiths and other workers in iron and makers of implements as recorded in the census of 1961 was 1,460 of whom a majority lived in the rural parts. The census has also recorded that there were 111 women associated in this work. But it is not clear whether those women were actually doing the work of black-smiths or only lending a helping hand. With the increase in demand for agricultural and other iron implements which are necessary for the agricultural families, the number of black-smiths in the district has been increasing. Almost all the towns and big villages have several families engaged in this occupation. The tools and equipment used in producing the agricultural implements, buckets and the like are anvils, hammers, blowers, chisels and furnaces. The raw materials required are mainly iron sheets, round bars and flats. This occupation is a seasonal occupation in the sense that the workers are brisk during the months when agricultural operations are in full swing and the demand for the implements is heavy. On an average a person engaged in blacksmithy earns about Rs. 100 to Rs. 125 a month. As the local agriculturists supply the necessary raw materials, the blacksmith need not invest any large capital to carry on his occupation; as such, the question of finance is not an important factor to a blacksmith.

Goldsmithy.—The number of goldsmiths in the district of Chitradurga, as per the 1961 census, was 1,820.

The village goldsmith often works alone and sometimes takes his near relations to work as apprentices. He confines himself generally to the manufacture of simple ornaments and a single artisan will often turn his hand to what would in large centres of trade be looked upon as separate functions requiring special skill, like embossing, chasing and the like.

Further, the goldsmith and the silversmith are generally the same in rural parts and there has been no clear distinction between the two branches of trade except in large towns.

The promulgation of the Gold Control Order in 1963 and the rules which followed affected the goldsmiths considerably and many of them were displaced from their traditional occupation. The effects of the measure were felt in the district also and the displaced goldsmiths turned to Government for help. The State

Gold Control Office initiated a series of helpful measures to rehabilitate the displaced goldsmiths ; 259 self-employed goldsmiths were given certificates in order to enable them to manufacture 14 carat gold ornaments. Facilities on a priority basis were given to displaced goldsmiths to find jobs in industrial concerns and local bodies. Preference was also shown to those who desired to join the services. For some who wanted to get themselves trained as fitters, welders, compositors, book-binders and tailors, special short-term orientation schemes were initiated. In the matter of giving lands to displaced goldsmiths, instructions were issued to the Deputy Commissioners to show them special concessions. Taking advantage of the liberal measures, the displaced goldsmiths in the district started Goldsmiths' Industrial Co-operative Societies to promote small-scale industries like the manufacture of brass utensils, smithy-craft, carpentry, manufacture of umbrellas, printing presses and the like. Four such societies located in Chitradurga, Davangere, Challakere and Hosadurga have been given a total loan assistance of Rs. 1,30,000.

Pottery.—The number of potters, makers of other earthen-ware and related workers was 2,806 in 1961 and most of them lived in villages of the district. This cottage industry is carried on by the Kumbara community. The products manufactured are generally sold in the local shandies and markets. The equipment of a potter consists of a wheel, frames and buckets. Quality of the earthen vessels depends more on the skill of hands than the equipment. The only raw materials required are fuel and clay. The clay is mixed with horsedung before it is used. The vessels when dried are burnt with the help of fuel. The daily earnings of a potter vary from Rs. 3 to Rs. 4 depending on the skill of the worker and the quantity of the products manufactured.

Flower-sellers.—Flower-sellers are found in all the big towns selling the common *kakada* and other imported flowers like *mallige*, *jaji*, rose and fragrant leaves like the *davana*. Flowers are tied in strings and sold by lengths. Loose flowers are also kept for sale. Chitradurga taluk grows a large quantity of the *kakada* flower, which is exported to Bombay and other places in northern India. The flower-sellers use the ordinary basket, white thread, scissors and a bucketful of water for spraying the flowers in order to prevent their wilting. The actual number of flower-sellers cannot be correctly estimated as they are not licensed or controlled under any statute. But it may be presumed that there are about 15 to 20 each at Chitradurga and Davangere and about two dozens in the urban places of the district.

A table showing the occupational classification of persons at work other than cultivation in the district in 1961 is given in the Appendix.
