

CHAPTER VIII

MISCELLANEOUS OCCUPATIONS

SOME of the important sectors of the district's economy such as agriculture, industries, banking, trade and commerce, transport and communications, in which a great majority of the working population are engaged, have been dealt with in the previous chapters. It is now necessary to deal with employment of the people in miscellaneous occupations which also contribute much to the economic prosperity of the area, though the number of persons under this group is comparatively not large. These occupations include public administration service, learned professions like law, medicine and education, domestic service, crafts like tailoring, carpentry, laundering, pottery, basket-weaving and running of hotels and restaurants. They give not only the means of livelihood to a section of the population, but also provide some important services and produce certain essential goods for the community. With the growth of urbanisation in recent decades, the miscellaneous occupations have also grown helping to stabilise the economic fabric of the area. In the absence of a comprehensive survey of the various occupational groups in the district, any attempt to describe these groups would inevitably be limited in scope.

A sizeable number of persons are employed in public services under the State and Central Governments. The village officials and the personnel engaged in administering the local self-governing institutions also come under this category. With the increasing tempo of developmental activities under the successive Five-Year Plans, the number of Government employees has increased over the years. Since 1862 when the district was formed, the Kolar town has been important as the centre of the district's administration and nearly one-third of the State Government employees of the district are concentrated in that place. Next in importance from this point of view is the Kolar Gold Fields city and then come the taluk headquarters towns. According to the 1961 census, the number of persons employed in

**Public
Administra-
tion service**

the Central Government establishments in the district was 201. Those engaged in public administration service, who earn an assured sum of money may be said to belong to the middle class or upper middle class. The various benefits afforded to the official class give them a sense of security. The State Bureau of Economics and Statistics has been conducting a census of Government employees annually. The reports of these surveys contain, *inter alia*, the distribution of Government employees as on the 31st March of each year working in the district by category and tenure of appointment and the distribution of Government employees as on that date according to their native districts. Figures pertaining to censuses conducted in 1963 and 1965 published in 1965 and 1967 respectively are given below :—

Distribution of State Government employees as on 31st March 1963 and 1965 by category of appointment in Kolar district.

As on 31st March 1963

	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV	Total
Kolar town ..	14	29	2,564	607	3,214
Kolar Gold Fields ..	4	5	698	209	916
Kolar district excluding Kolar town and the K.G.F. ..	7	45	4,182	892	5,126
Total	25	79	7,444	1,708	9,256

As on 31st March 1965

	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV	Total
Kolar town ..	31	42	1,366	666	2,105
Kolar Gold Fields ..	7	16	1,585	226	1,834
Kolar district (excluding Kolar town and the K.G.F.) ..	12	25	5,555	1,175	6,767
Total	50	83	8,506	2,067	10,706

**Other
office-workers
and shop-
assistants**

In addition to those who worked in Government offices in various capacities, the number of others who earned their livelihood by working in private offices and shops was considerable. According to the 1961 census, Kolar district returned 4,045

administrative, executive and managerial workers, 5,474 clerical and related workers and 2,357 unskilled office-workers (all these three figures include also Government officials of those categories) and 5,388 salesmen and related workers. A number of new industrial units have been started and there has been also a good deal of development in the fields of education, trade and commerce in recent years. This has necessitated increasing recruitment of workers of these categories as well.

The most prominent of the learned professions are medicine, law, teaching, engineering, arts and letters. The following is a brief account of these learned occupations (the figures are from 1961 census reports):—

**Learned
professions**

Medicine.—The total number of persons in medical and health services working as physicians, surgeons and dentists in the district was 435, of whom 393 were males and 42 females. There were 778 nurses, pharmacists and other medical and health technicians. These figures included those who worked in public hospitals, dispensaries, health centres, private nursing homes and clinics. Among the doctors, those working in the urban areas numbered 235, while, of the second category, as many as 531 were in the towns.

Law.—The number of persons engaged in practising law and tendering legal advice to clients was 132, of whom 129 persons practised in urban areas.

Teaching.—The number of teachers is now constantly increasing with the rise in the number of educational institutions. There are colleges in Kolar town, Robertsonpet and Chintamani, affiliated to the University of Mysore. Emoluments of the teachers have been bettered in recent years. Technical institutions have been established in Chintamani and Kolar Gold Fields area. Under the successive Five-Year Plans, there has been a rapid spread of secondary education. There were in all 4,596 teachers working in various educational institutions, both Government and private. Out of this, 2,216 persons were engaged in the teaching profession in urban areas. Out of the total of 4,596 persons, 219 persons were employed in secondary schools, 3,483 in primary and middle schools, 113 in nursery and kindergarten schools and the rest were private teachers. Of the total, 857 were women teachers.

Engineering.—There were in all 443 architects, engineers and surveyors in the district. Of these, 139 persons belonged to civil engineering and were engaged in construction of buildings, roads, bridges and canals. Besides these, there were 57 draughtsmen and other engineering technicians in the district.

Arts and Letters.—There were in all 255 persons engaged in arts and letters. These included actors, musicians, painters, writers and journalists and related workers. Of the total, 20 were women.

Working proprietors

The census of 1961 has returned 11,654 working proprietors (wholesale and retail trade), whose main occupation is to manage production units and under whom a number of paid employees work on monthly wages. The working proprietors are not mere profit-earners. Though they are also the financing agents, they look after the managerial side of the units and contribute their share of work as well. Of the total, 1,914 were women.

Farmers and farm-workers

In Kolar district, the role of farmers and farm-workers (other than agricultural) has become more important than before. There were in all 11,162 of them in the district as per the 1961 census, of whom 4,172 were women. The total number included farm managers and those engaged in rearing of animals, birds, insects and the like, both in Governmental and non-governmental establishments.

Hotels and Restaurants

Hotels and restaurants in the district consist of various categories, *viz.*, coffee bars and milk bars where beverages, cool drinks and snacks are served, hotels where, in addition to eatables, full and plate meals are served, boarding and lodging houses where both meals and accommodation are provided and exclusive tea shops. These hotels and restaurants provide employment to cooks, servers, cleaners and sometimes paid managers. In most of the hotels and restaurants, the owner of the establishment looks after the management. The wages of cooks vary from Rs. 60 to Rs. 80 and those of servers from Rs. 30 to Rs. 50 with boarding. The cleaners are paid less. In Kolar town, Robertsonpet, Chikballapur and Chintamani, there are several good hotels. According to the 1961 census, there were 890 persons working in the hotels and restaurants as waiters, servers, cooks and related workers.

Transport workers

There were 3,545 persons engaged in transport and communications in the district in 1961. Of these, 881 were motor-vehicle drivers, 1,897 were working in road transport establishments as drivers and related workers, and 175 were postmen.

Tool-makers and related workers

Kolar district had 2,017 tool-makers, machinists, welders, plumbers and related workers in 1961. Among these were 607 machine repairs-men and 579 fitter-machinists. Nearly 1,848 of these were working in urban areas. With the increased tempo of industrialisation, there is greater demand for these workmen and they are paid better than the traditional craftsmen.

As per the 1961 census, there were in all 845 electricians and related workers in the district. With the rapid development of rural electrification and the increasing number of irrigation pump-sets, the need for electricians has become great. **Electricians**

In the old days, barbers used to go to each house in the locality to render their services. While this practice continues to a certain extent, especially in the rural areas, many of the barbers have now established their own saloons both in the urban and rural areas. The presence of the barber is necessary at certain religious ceremonies like *chudakarma* and funerals. It is a significant feature of this profession that the majority of those engaged in it are independent workers. The average daily earning of an independent barber may be estimated to be from Rs. 3 to Rs. 5, while the average monthly earning of a barber's shop may vary from Rs. 100 to Rs. 250 depending upon its size and popularity. The district had 1,413 barbers and hair dressers in 1961. **Barbers**

Laundering is another occupation which earns a better urban wage. In the urban areas, it is quite common to see washing agencies and dry-cleaning establishments. Washermen also go from house to house to collect clothes. In the washing agencies, if the washing is to be done urgently, the charge for each garment is 25 paise. If it is a delayed washing, the rates charged are 12 to 15 paise per cloth. Dry cleaning of woollen suits is done for Rs. 1.50 to Rs. 2 per suit. The domestic washerman who comes regularly to collect the bundle, charges Rs. 8 to Rs. 10 per 100 pieces. **Washermen**

A majority of tailors in the district are independent workers with their own sewing machines and these are found all over the district. In some of the small shops, merchants accommodate a tailor or two in a corner of their shops. Tailors are also employed by shop-keepers who do business in cloths. Tailoring shops with a master-tailor employing two or three workers are a common feature in the urban areas of the district. The 1961 census has recorded that there were 3,399 persons in the tailoring profession in the district, of whom 402 were women. It is a full-time occupation providing employment throughout the year. The monthly average earnings of a tailor may be put at Rs. 150 to Rs. 250. The tailoring charges are paid by customers according to the apparel required on a piece-rate basis. If it is a cotton shirt, the rates vary from Rs. 1.50 to Rs. 2. If it is a cotton suit, the charges vary from Rs. 12 to Rs. 15. The rates for woollen suits vary from place to place. In the Kolar Gold Fields area, the tailoring charges for a woollen suit vary from Rs. 45 to Rs. 60. In other towns like Kolar and Chikballapur, the rates are little less, from Rs. 40 to Rs. 50 per suit. Small **Tailors**

pieces like frocks, knickers and other children's clothes are tailored for Re. 1 to Rs. 1-50.

Other occupations

The 1961 census has listed many other occupations, besides those described above. These are traditional occupations handed down from generation to generation, giving, as it were, strength and stability to the social fabric of the district. Many of them are skilled artisans who play a vital role in the district's economy. A brief account of some of such occupations is given in the following paragraphs :—

Goldsmiths

There were 1,377 jewellers, goldsmiths and silversmiths in the district in 1961. Generally, the goldsmith and the silversmith are the same in the rural areas. 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. In urban areas, the goldsmiths have their own establishments with one or two assistants. The equipment consists of an anvil, bellows, hammers, crucibles, moulds, cupboards and show cases. For an ordinary goldsmith shop, the cost of equipment generally ranges between Rs. 500 to Rs. 1,000. Due to the gold control measure of 1963, the goldsmiths in the district underwent difficulties. With a view to rehabilitating them, the State Government have given them lands for agriculture, loans for starting cottage industries and educational concessions for their children. Training facilities in various useful trades and employment assistance are also given to them. Some of the recent relaxations of the gold control order have also helped them to rehabilitate themselves.

Spinners and weavers

Spinners, weavers, knitters, dyers and related workers numbered 5,299 in the district in 1961. Less than half of them were in urban areas. There were 1,972 women engaged in this occupation. Many of the weavers possess their own looms and the supply of raw materials is made to them by the local master-weavers or financiers, who take back from them the finished products and pay them the weaving charges. A weaver, who has more than one loom, employs labour in accordance with his needs and pays daily wages. The average earnings of a weaver vary from Rs. 3 to Rs. 5 a day.

Carpenters

Carpenters are skilled artisans and they play a vital role in the rural economy of the district. Generally, they have their own tool kits. In villages, their main occupation is to make and repair agricultural implements and bullock carts. In towns, however, they are engaged in furniture-making, house construction, manufacture of handloom accessories and the like.

The carpenters in villages work in their own houses or sheds attached to their houses, while those in towns have their shops. They work in groups as well as in family circles. Those engaged in making building equipments like doors and windows are attached to building contractors. With the improvement in the living conditions of the people and the increase in house-building activities, there is considerable demand in the urban areas for carpenters engaged in the manufacture of articles of furniture and doors and windows.

There were in all 1,473 blacksmiths and related workers in the district in 1961. These people had their own workshops in small hutments. A majority of these blacksmiths are in rural areas attending to the various needs of the agriculturists. Generally, they have brisk work when agricultural operations are in full swing. On an average, a blacksmith earns about Rs. 100 to Rs. 150 a month. They also do other jobs such as fixing of iron tyres (rings) on the bullock-cart wheels. **Blacksmiths**

The district had, according to the 1961 census, 6,244 bricklayers, plasterers and other construction workers. Of these, 1,841 were stone-dressers, many of them moving about with their tool kits offering their services where necessary. The stone-dressers get an average daily wage of Rs. 3 to Rs. 5. The bricklayers, plasterers and masons get an average daily wage of Rs. 4 to Rs. 6. **Construction workers**

The 1961 census has listed 1,633 potters, kilnmen and other related workers in the district. They are scattered all over the area, especially in rural parts. The potters sell their wares in local shandies and markets and also by carrying them to houses. The daily earnings of a potter vary from Rs. 3 to Rs. 4 depending upon the skill of the workers and the quantity of products manufactured. **Potters**

There were 2,675 basket-makers and related workers in the district in 1961. Of these, 1,458 were women. A majority of them are in rural areas. During the harvest months, there is a great demand for sieves, baskets, mats and the like. Persons engaged in this craft are poor and eke out their livelihood with great difficulty. **Basket-weavers**

There were 500 gardeners in the district as per 1961 census. The figure includes those who have small vegetable gardens of their own and those who are employed in vegetable and flower gardens. In recent years, a number of new residential houses have sprung up at Kolar and other larger towns and in and around the Kolar Gold Fields city. The highly paid technical personnel in the Gold Fields area are housed in spacious houses. It is **Gardeners**

common in these houses to have flower-beds and sometimes kitchen gardens in the open spaces surrounding these cottages. Gardeners employed to look after these plants and for watering them frequently are paid at monthly rates ranging from Rs. 35 to Rs. 50 with food while others get about Rs. 75 to Rs. 100 a month.

**Leather
workers**

The 1961 census recorded that there were in the district 425 leather workers who were either independent workers or employed by tanners. This figure includes shoe-makers and shoe-repairers also. On an average, the employees are paid Rs. 2 to Rs. 2.50 a day. The independent workers pursue their occupation with their small capital. (See also Chapter IX and Appendix).
