

## CHAPTER VIII

### MISCELLANEOUS OCCUPATIONS

**T**HE previous chapters have dealt with some of the important sections of the district's economy such as agriculture, industries, banking and trade, transport and communications. There is, however, a part of the population, which has not been considered so far from the point of view of their occupations. In the 1961 Census reports, out of a total population of 8,99,210 in the district, 3,11,645 persons were listed as cultivators, 46,219 persons as agricultural labourers, 2,584 persons as engaged in mining, livestock, hunting and orchards, 19,031 in house-hold industries, 9,492 persons in manufacturing other than house-hold industry, 4,723 persons in construction work, 7,666 persons in trade and commerce, 1,470 persons in transport, storage and communications and 23,865 persons in other services including public administration service, learned professions and the like.

**Livelihood  
pattern**

Thus a total of 4,26,695 persons in the district had some occupation or other, while the remaining 4,72,515 persons were classed as non-workers. No detailed survey, either sociological or economic, has been made 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. An attempt is, however, made here to give an account of some of the avocations of the persons in the district, classified under 'Miscellaneous Occupations'.

Mandya town has always had its importance in the field of administration. Even before 1939, when it was not a district headquarter town, being the headquarter town of a revenue subdivision of the former Mysore district, it had a fair number of Government offices functioning. The construction of the Visvesvaraya canal and the location of a sugar factory at Mandya necessitated the formation of a separate district in 1939 and this in turn increased the number of employees in the field of administration. The taluk headquarter towns also account for a number of Government servants.

**Public admi-  
nistration  
service**

Statistics relating to certain aspects of Government employees were being collected in Mysore State by the Public Service Commission and the General Administration Department of the Government before the re-organisation of States. But, these statistics were of a limited scope and were not comprehensive. The first joint conference of Central and State Statisticians held in 1951 recommended that a continuous series of figures should be made available through periodic collections. Realising the importance of such statistics, the Government decided that a comprehensive Census of the Government employees should be undertaken annually. The State Directorate of Statistics is conducting these surveys, which contain among other things, the distribution of Government employees as on 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 1960 and 1963 and published in 1962 and 1965 respectively are given below :—

*Distribution of Government employees as on 31st March 1960 and 1963 by category of appointment in Mandya district.*

<i>As on 31st March 1960</i>						
	<i>Class I</i>	<i>Class II</i>	<i>Class III</i>	<i>Class IV</i>	<i>Total</i>	
Mandya town ..	18	40	1,173	503	1,734	
Mandya district (excluding Mandya town) ..	13	59	2,822	1,263	4,157	
Total ..	31	99	3,995	1,766	5,891	

  

<i>As on 31st March 1963</i>						
	<i>Class I</i>	<i>Class II</i>	<i>Class III</i>	<i>Class IV</i>	<i>Total</i>	
Mandya town ..	19	40	1,816	732	2,607	
Mandya district (excluding Mandya town) ..	9	59	3,650	666	4,384	
Total ..	28	99	5,466	1,398	6,991	

It can be seen from the above tables that the total number of Government employees increased to the extent of 1,100 between 1960 and 1963. While the number of gazetted officers and class IV employees decreased by three and 368 respectively, there was a considerable increase in the number of class III officials, *i.e.*, to the extent of 1,471. This increase is attributable to the rising tempo of developmental activities in the district.

*Medicine*.—The number of persons in medical and health services in the district was 576. Of these, 208 were physicians, surgeons and dentists, of whom 16 were women. Urban areas of the district had a large number of these, viz., 111. There were 568 nurses, pharmacists and other medical and health technicians. These figures include those who are engaged in public hospitals, dispensaries, health centres, private nursing homes and clinics.

The most prominent of the learned professions are medicine, law, teaching, engineering, arts and letters. The 1961 Census gives the following figures in regard to the number of persons employed in various learned professions in the district :

There were in all 799 village officials in the district (1961 Census), who did various kinds of duties in the rural areas, such as collection of land revenue, upkeep of land records, keeping watch on irrigation canals and the like. These village offices, which were hereditary in nature, were abolished by the Mysore Village Offices Abolition Act, 1961, which came into force in 1963. While, however, the Patels and others are being continued for the time being, the hereditary Shanbhogues have been replaced by regularly recruited Village Accountants.

Of the 3,867 clerical and related workers in the district in 1961, 168 were stenographers and typists. These were employed in different Government, quasi-Government and private establishments scattered all over the district. There were in all 176 book-keepers, who assisted in writing accounts, in the preparation of balance sheets and the like. Many of them possessed a degree or diploma in commerce. There is an increasing demand for workers of these categories as a number of educational, industrial and other establishments have been started in recent years. A total number of 1,851 unskilled office-workers such as attenders, peons and orderlies was listed in the 1961 Census.

In addition to those who worked in Government offices in various capacities, the number of other executives, who earned their livelihood by working in private offices, was not inconsiderable. According to the 1961 Census, Mandya district returned 2,882 administrative executives, 3,867 persons engaged in clerical and related duties in various establishments (these figures include also Government officials of these categories) and 2,198 sales-men, shop assistants and related workers. The sizable number of office executives is due to the rapid economic development of the region in recent years. A number of large-scale industrial units have been started, with the result that a large number of executives has been drawn in. These executives, among their other duties, manage the offices to which they are attached.

*Law.*—The number of persons associated with the profession of law in the district was 84. Of these, 70 were legal practitioners and advisers.

*Teaching.*—There were in all 2,961 teachers of all grades in the district employed in private schools as well as Government institutions. Of these, 327 were women. Consequent on the increase in the number of students and educational institutions, the number of teachers is increasing every year.

*Engineering.*—There were in all 375 architects, engineers and surveyors in the district. Of these, 272 persons belonged to civil engineering and were engaged in construction of buildings, roads, bridges and canals. Besides these, there were 75 draughtsmen and other engineering technicians in the district.

*Arts and Letters.*—There were in all 248 persons engaged in arts and letters. These included actors, musicians, painters, writers and journalists and related workers.

**Working proprietors**

The Census of 1961 has returned 5,059 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.

**Farmers and farm-workers (other than agricultural)**

In a rapidly developing area like that of the Mandya district, the role of farmers and farm workers has become more important than before. There were in all about 10,000 of them in the district as per the 1961 Census. These include farm managers and those engaged in rearing of animals, birds, insects and the like, both in Governmental and non-Governmental establishments.

**Hotels and Restaurants**

The group of hotels and restaurants in the district consists of different kinds of establishments, 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 varied from Rs. 50 to Rs. 75 and that of servers from Rs. 30 to Rs. 45 with meals. The cleaners are paid less. In the headquarters town of Mandya, there are several good hotels. There is a large modern style hotel at the Brindavan gardens, which is run on western lines, providing ample comforts. Hotels and restaurants have sprung up in all the urban areas in recent

years. In 1961, there were about 880 persons working in the hotels and restaurants of the district.

There were 1,267 persons engaged in transport and communication occupations in the district in 1961. Of these, about 500 were motor vehicle drivers and related workers and 101 traffic supervisors and inspectors. Drivers of animal-drawn vehicles numbered 228. In the field of communication, there were 188 postmen and messengers in the district.

**Transport workers**

The district had 1,100 tool-makers, machinists, welders, plumbers and related workers in 1961. Among these were 533 mechanics-repairmen, 193 fitter-machinists and 182 sheet-metal workers. More than half of these were working in rural areas. They get their training mainly in workshops, factories and training institutions. With the increased tempo of industrialisation there is greater demand for these workmen and they are paid better than the traditional craftsmen.

**Tool makers and related workers**

According to the 1961 Census, there were in all 432 electricians and related workers in the district. With the development of rural electrification and the increasing number of irrigation pump-sets, the need for electricians has become great.

**Electricians**

The category of domestic and personal services includes such occupations as cooking, house-cleaning, car-driving, laundering, hair-cutting and the like. The Census of 1961 mentions these services under different heads. The following are the figures relating to them :—

**Domestic and personal services**

<i>Category</i>	<i>Number of persons</i>	
Laundry services	..	2,064
House-keepers, cooks and maids	..	2,001
Barbers and hair-dressers	..	827

A fairly large number of people are engaged in domestic services as almost all well-to-do families in the district employ domestic servants; middle-income groups also sometimes engage part-time domestic servants. Mostly, persons belonging to the poorer sections of the community come forward to work as domestic servants. They usually get an average monthly wage of Rs 25 to Rs. 30 in addition to their meals. Sometimes, a domestic servant may be employed part-time by more than one householder. But the rich and the upper middle-class families usually employ one or more full-time servants.

*Barbers.*—In the early days, barbers used to go to each house in the locality to render their services and were paid in kind. The old order has now changed and many of the barbers have established their shops both in the urban and rural areas of the district. 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. 4 while the average monthly earning of a barber's shop may vary from Rs. 100 to Rs. 250 depending upon its size and popularity.

*Washermen.*—Till recently, the washermen used to visit houses to collect soiled clothes for washing and they were paid in kind for the services rendered. However, now, especially in urban areas, washermen are being remunerated in cash and laundries have come to be set up in almost every part of the district. Formerly, the washermen used to clean the clothes with the help of a type of sand called *choulu*, but now they use soaps, soda and other cleaning agents. While washing is done at the banks of the nearby tanks or rivers, only the ironing is done in the laundry. On an average, a washerman earns about Rs. 60 to Rs. 100 a month.

*Tailors.*—Most of the tailors are independent workers with their own sewing machines and they are found all over the district. In some of the small shops, the merchant accommodates a tailor or two in a corner of his shop. Tailors are also employed by shop-keepers who do business in clothes. 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 disclosed that there were 1,865 persons in the tailoring profession in the district, of whom more than a half were in rural parts and the remaining in the urban areas. It is a full-time occupation providing employment throughout the year. The monthly average earnings of a tailor may be put at Rs. 100 to Rs. 150.

**Other occupations**

The Census of 1961 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 economy of the district. A brief account of some of such occupations is given in the following paragraphs.

**Goldsmiths**

The 1961 Census has recorded that there were 1,233 jewellers, goldsmiths and silversmiths in the district. Generally, the goldsmith and the silversmith are the same in rural parts. 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.

According to the Gold Control Office, Bangalore, 682 persons in the district were affected by the Gold Control Order 1963; 431 goldsmiths obtained certificates for carrying on their business in making 14 carat gold ornaments; 112 displaced goldsmiths are given lands for taking up agriculture; educational concessions are being given to the children of displaced goldsmiths and a total number of 259 displaced goldsmiths have been given loans to the extent of about Rs. one lakh for starting cottage industries and petty shops. Two industrial co-operative societies have been formed at Mandya and Bellur to help the goldsmiths. Each of these societies has been given a loan of Rs. 40,000 for starting smithy-craft and carpentry centres and to manufacture brass utensils, umbrellas, etc. Training facilities in various useful trades and employment assistance are also being given to them.

Spinners, weavers, knitters, dyers and related workers numbered 3,373 in the district in 1961. Nearly two-thirds of them were in the rural areas, the majority of those engaged in these trades being women. Many of the weavers possess their own looms and the supply of raw material is made to them by 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. 2 to Rs. 3 per day. **Spinners and weavers**

There were 2,226 carpenters and related workers in the district in 1961. Those who work in urban areas get an average daily wage of Rs. 5 to Rs. 7, while those who pursue their avocation in rural areas, are paid on an average Rs. 3 to Rs. 5. Generally, these carpenters have their own tool-kits and many of them work under contractors. **Carpenters**

There were in all 882 blacksmiths and related workers in the district in 1961. They had their workshops in small hutments. A large majority of them carry on their profession in rural areas by attending to the various needs of the cultivators. Generally, they have brisk work when agricultural operations are in full swing. On an average, a blacksmith earns about Rs. 100 to Rs. 125 a month. **Blacksmiths**

The district had, according to the 1961 Census, 3,785 brick-layers, plasterers, stone-cutters and other construction workers. Of these, 1,583 were stone-cutters, many of them wandering about with their tool-kits offering their services, where necessary. The stone-cutters get an average daily wage of Rs. 2 to Rs. 3. The brick-layers, plasterers and masons get an average daily wage of Rs. 3 to Rs. 5. **Construction workers**

**Leather workers**

The 1961 Census recorded that there were, in the district, 361 leather workers, who were either independent workers or employed by tanners. Of these, 304 were shoe-makers and shoe-repairers scattered all over the district. On an average, the employees were paid Rs. 2 to Rs. 2.50 a day. The independent workers pursued their occupation with their own small capital.

**Potters**

The Census of 1961 has listed 2,327 potters, kilnmen and other related workers in the district. They are scattered all over the district, especially in the rural areas. The potters sell their wares in local shandies and markets and also by carrying them to households. 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.

**Basket-weavers**

In 1961, there were 1,117 basket-makers and related workers in the district. Of these, a majority were women. Nearly a thousand of the basket-weavers were spread over the rural areas. During the harvest months, there is greater demand for sieves, baskets, mats and the like. Persons engaged in this craft are poor and eke out their livelihood with great difficulty.

**Gardeners**

There were 354 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. Gardeners employed in households are paid a monthly salary of about Rs. 35 to Rs. 50 with food, while others get about Rs. 75 to Rs. 100 a month.

A statement showing the occupational classification of persons at work (other than cultivation) in Mandya district in 1961 is given in the Appendix.

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