

CHAPTER VIII

MISCELLANEOUS OCCUPATIONS

SOME of the important sectors of the district's economy such as agriculture, industries, trade and commerce, transport and communications have been dealt with in the previous chapters. Though these are the major sectors of employment, there is still a small percentage of population unaccounted for who find employment in other avenues classed under miscellaneous occupations. This percentage, though small, has an important bearing on the economic development of the area. Out of the district's total population of 13,67,402 as per the 1961 Census, 83.6 per cent was engaged in agriculture and the total non-agricultural percentage of population in the district was 16.4. Out of this, about 7.5 per cent is engaged in other avocations grouped under miscellaneous occupations. The bulk of them live in urban areas as the chances of getting suitable employment in the rural areas are not many. These occupations include public administration services, learned professions like law, medicine and education, domestic and personal services like laundering, tailoring and hair-dressing, other occupations like carpentry, pottery and 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 or 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.

Public Administration Service

A considerable 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. The Tumkur town has all along been important as the centre of the district's administration, and a large number of the Government employees of the district are concentrated here. Next in importance, from this point of view, come Tiptur, Madhugiri, Gubbi and other taluk headquarters towns.

Realising the importance of a regular collection of the statistics of persons employed in Government, the State Bureau of Economics and Statistics has been conducting a survey since 1959. The report of the survey for the year 1959 was published in 1961. It contains, among other things, the distribution of Government employees, as on 31st March 1959, working in the district by category and tenure of appointment. As these particulars are of interest in studying the avenues of employment in the Government sector, the figures relating to 1959, 1963 and 1965 are given below :—

As on 31st March 1959

<i>Category</i>	<i>Permanent</i>	<i>Temporary</i>	<i>Not stated</i>	<i>Total</i>
1	2	3	4	5
Gazetted ..	60	10	10	80
Non-Gazetted ..	3,181	345	3,026	6,552
Class IV ..	474	268	1,041	1,783
Total ..	3,715	623	4,077	8,415

As on 31st March 1963

	<i>Class I</i>	<i>Class II</i>	<i>Class III</i>	<i>Class IV</i>	<i>All</i>
1	2	3	4	5	6
Tumkur town ..	22	36	1,564	597	2,219
Tumkur district (excluding Tumkur town.)	11	59	5,408	849	6,327
Total for the district	33	95	6,972	1,446	8,546

As on 31st March 1965

	<i>Class I</i>	<i>Class II</i>	<i>Class III</i>	<i>Class IV</i>	<i>All</i>
1	2	3	4	5	6
Tumkur town ..	23	50	1,323	540	1,936
Tumkur district (excluding Tumkur town.)	10	62	4,944	840	5,856
Total for the district ..	33	112	6,267	1,380	7,792

From the above tables it can be seen that the figures for the year 1965 indicate some decrease in the total number of Government employees in the district; but actually it is not so. According to the Bureau of Economics and Statistics, these are not complete figures since a few offices had not furnished the required particulars to the authorities conducting the census.

Besides the State Government employees, there are also Central Government servants and workers employed by the local bodies in the district. The Central Government employees of all categories numbered 870 in the district in 1966-67, while there were about 550 employees working in the various local bodies during the same year. A majority of these categories of employees, who earn an assured sum of money, may be said to belong to the middle classes. The various benefits afforded to this official class give them a sense of security.

**Other Office-
workers and
Shop-assistants**

In addition to those who are working in Government offices and local self-governing institutions in various capacities, there are also a considerable number of people who are earning their livelihood by working in private offices, shops and other establishments. According to the 1961 Census, Tumkur district accounted for about 2,000 administrative, executive and managerial workers in the private sector and 2,886 salesmen, shop assistants and related workers. A number of new industrial units have been established in the district and there has also been a good deal of development in the fields of trade and commerce in recent years. This has resulted in increasing recruitment of workers of these categories.

**Learned
professions**

The important learned professions in the district include medicine, engineering, law, teaching, arts and letters. A brief account of these professions is given below.

Medicine.—According to the 1951 Census figures, there were 574 persons in the medical and health services in the district. As against this, the 1961 Census revealed that there were 305 physicians, surgeons and dentists and 452 nurses, pharmacists and other medical and health technicians in the district. Of these, 172 persons were females and the rest males. These figures included those who were working in public hospitals, dispensaries, health centres, private nursing homes and clinics. Nearly half of these persons were working in the urban areas of the district, while the other half were in the rural areas.

Engineering.—There were, in all, 227 engineers, architects and surveyors in the district in 1961. Of these, 97 persons belonged to civil engineering and were engaged in construction of buildings, roads and bridges. Besides these, there were 20 draughtsmen and other engineering technicians in the district.

Law.—The district accounted for 156 persons in the legal profession as per the 1961 Census. These included jurists, legal practitioners and advisers. Most of these persons, *i.e.*, 149, were working in the urban areas of the district.

Teaching.—There were 3,831 persons in the educational services in the district in 1951, including both employers, employees and independent workers. Since then, there has been a gradual increase in the number of educational institutions in the district, both primary and secondary and higher. According to the 1961 Census, there were 4,990 teachers in the district. Of these, as many as 4,258 were middle and primary school teachers, 235 were secondary school teachers and 119 nursery and kindergarten school teachers. Out of the total, 436 teachers were women. A majority of the teachers were in the rural areas, the number of those working in the urban areas being only 1,535.

Arts and Letters.—In 1961, there were, in all, 297 persons engaged in the professions relating to arts and letters, of whom 52 were women. This category of workers included actors, musicians, painters, writers, journalists and related workers.

The census of 1961 has returned 11,588 working proprietors, both of wholesale and retail trade, in the district, whose main occupation is to manage their own shops and other business establishments, as also various production units. A number of paid employees work under many of them on monthly wages. They are not mere financing agents and profit earners. They also look after the managerial side of their establishments and contribute their share of work as well. About 50 per cent of these working proprietors were found in the urban areas and the rest in the rural areas. There were also a considerable number of women among them, *viz.*, 2,340. **Working Proprietors**

In Tumkur district, there is a considerable number of persons engaged as farmers and farm-workers, other than agricultural. According to the 1961 Census, there were 38,112 of them, of whom 9,261 were females. Except for 1,489 persons, all others were working in the rural areas of the district. The total number included farm and plantation managers and those engaged in rearing of animals, birds, insects and the like, both in Governmental and non-Governmental establishments. **Farmers and Farm-workers**

The hotels and restaurants in the district, as elsewhere, provide opportunities of employment as cooks, servers, cleaners and, in some cases, paid managers. In most of the establishments, the owners themselves look after the management. According to the 1961 Census, there were about 1,160 persons following these **Workers in hotels and restaurants**

and other related professions in the various hotels, restaurants and eating houses in the district. The wages of cooks generally varied from Rs. 60 to 80 and those of servers from Rs. 30 to 50 with boarding. The cleaners are paid less.

Besides these workers employed in hotels and restaurants, there were also about 1,660 persons working as house-keepers, bearers, waiters, maids and the like in private houses in the district. Of these, about 340 were females.

**Transport
Workers**

As per the 1961 Census, the workers in transport and communication occupations in the district numbered 1,785, most of whom were in the urban areas. Of these, 1,122 were drivers of road transport services, including buses, lorries, cars and animal-drawn vehicles. Among others were conductors, traffic inspectors, signalmen, pointsmen, ticket sellers and collectors, railway guards, telephone operators, etc.

**Electrical
Workers**

Electricians and related electrical workers in the district in 1961 numbered 544. Of these, 404 were linemen and cable-jointers. With the rapid development in rural electrification and telegraph and telephone services, the need for workers of these categories has been on the increase, and they are also paid better than the unskilled workers.

Tool-Makers

There were about 800 tool-makers, machinists, welders, plumbers and related workers in the district in 1961. These also included mechanics and repairmen, who numbered 470. Of the total number, more than 500 persons were working in the urban areas, where employment opportunities for such type of workers were more. With the increased tempo of industrialisation, there is greater demand for these workmen and they are paid better than the traditional craftsmen.

**Construction
Workers**

There were 5,428 construction workers in the district, consisting of brick-layers, plasterers, stone-cutters, masons, well-diggers and the like, according to the 1961 Census. Of these, the stone-cutters and dressers alone accounted for 1,726 persons, the number of brick-layers and plasterers being 697. The stone dressers, many of whom move about with their tool-kits offering their services wherever necessary, get an average daily wage of Rs. 3 to 5, while the brick-layers, plasterers and masons get about Rs. 4 to 6. With the increase in constructional activities in recent years, the employment avenues for these classes of workers have also increased.

Barbers

In the old days, mostly the practice was for the barbers to go to houses of the people in their localities to render their services. While this practice still 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 among many Hindus. A significant feature of this profession is that a majority of those engaged in it are independent workers. The average daily earning of an independent barber may be put at Rs. 3 to 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. Many of the barber families have also the tradition of cultivating instrumental music. In 1961, the district had 1,269 barbers, hair-dressers and related workers, of whom 406 were in urban areas.

Laundering is another essential personal service needed by the community. In 1961, there were 2,892 persons engaged in this occupation in the district, of whom as many as 1,082 were females. A large majority of these washermen and women were in the rural areas, with only 365 of them working in the urban areas. Washermen also go from house to house to collect and deliver the clothes, especially in the rural areas. In the urban areas, it is common to see laundering shops and also, of late, dry-cleaning establishments. In the laundries, the rate charged per clothe varies from 12 to 15 paise for an ordinary wash and about 25 to 30 paise for an urgent wash. Dry-cleaning of woollen suits is done for Rs. 1-50 to Rs. 2-50 per suit. The domestic washerman, who collects clothes from the houses, charges about Rs. 10 per 100 pieces. **Washermen**

A majority of tailors in the district are independent workers, having their own sewing machines and earning a fairly good income. They are found all over the district, especially in towns and small townships. In some of the shops, especially cloth shops, merchants accommodate a tailor or two in a corner of their shops; some of the cloth merchants also employ one or two tailors to work in their shops. Tailoring shops, with a master-tailor employing two or three workers, are a common feature in the urban areas of the district. It is a full-time occupation, which provides employment throughout the year, and 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. The charges for stitching a cotton suit generally varies from Rs. 12 to Rs. 15, while that of a woollen suit from Rs. 40 to Rs. 60. In 1961, the district had, in all, 3,683 tailors, cutters and related workers, of whom 1,376 were in the urban areas and the rest in the rural areas. **Tailors**

Carpenters are skilled artisans and are found in a good number in the district. According to the 1961 Census, there were 2,208 of them, concentrated mainly in the rural areas. These included **Carpenters**

also cabinet-makers, pattern-makers and other related workers. Generally, carpenters have their own tool-kits. In the villages, they make and repair agricultural implements, bullock carts, doors and windows and the like, while in the towns, they are mostly engaged in house-construction and making of furniture and the like. Many of the carpenters in villages work in their own houses or sheds attached to their houses, while some of those in towns have their own shops. Many of those engaged in making doors and windows and other materials for house-construction, are attached to building contractors. A skilled carpenter earns at an average of Rs. 5 to Rs. 7 daily. With the improvement in the standard of living of the people in recent years and the increase of house-building activities, there is greater demand for carpenters, especially in the urban areas.

Blacksmiths

In 1961, there were 1,628 blacksmiths (including hammer-smiths and forgemen) in the district, working mostly in the rural areas. They generally have their own workshops in small hutments and attend to the various needs of the agriculturists. Generally, they have brisk work when agricultural operations are in full swing and when there is more demand for agricultural implements and tools. They also undertake other jobs like fixing of iron tyres (rings) for bullock-cart wheels. On an average, a blacksmith earns about Rs. 100 to Rs. 150 per month.

There are also some other traditional occupations besides those described above, in which also a sizable number of people are engaged in the district. They are goldsmiths, spinners and weavers, potters, basket-weavers and the like. Many of them are skilled artisans who play a vital role in the district's economy. A brief account of some of these occupations is given hereunder.

Goldsmiths

The total number of goldsmiths in the district in 1961 was 2,260. These included jewellers and silversmiths as well. Generally, the goldsmiths and the silversmiths are the same in the rural areas. The village goldsmith often works alone and sometimes takes his near relations to assist him or to work as apprentices. He confines himself generally to the manufacture of simple ornaments which are popular in the rural areas. In urban areas, the goldsmiths have their own shops with one or two assistants under them. Due to the gold control measures introduced in 1963, some of the goldsmiths in the district were affected considerably. With a view to rehabilitating them, the State Government have given them lands for agriculture, loans for starting cottage industries and educational concessions to their children. Training facilities in various useful trades and assistance in securing employment have also been extended to them. Some of the recent relaxations of the gold control order have also been of help to them, to some extent, in rehabilitating themselves.

Spinners, weavers, dyers and related workers numbered 11,682 in the district in 1961, of whom 6,133 were females. More than 9,300 of the total number were in rural areas. 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 the finished products and pay them the weaving charges. The establishment of Weavers' Co-operative Societies in recent years has been helpful in improving their economic position to a certain extent. A weaver, who has more than one loom, employs labour in accordance with his needs and pays them daily wages. The average earning of a weaver varies from Rs. 3 to Rs. 5 a day.

Spinners and Weavers

Potters are scattered all over the district, mostly in the rural parts. There were 2,649 of them in the district, in 1961. These included also kilnmen, clay formers and related workers. The potters sell their wares in local shandies and markets and also by carrying them to houses. The daily earning of potters varies from Rs. 3 to Rs. 5 depending upon the skill and the quantity of products manufactured. With the increase in the use of aluminium utensils in the households in recent years, the demand for potters' ware is gradually decreasing.

Potters

In 1961, there were 2,259 basket-weavers and related workers in the district and almost all of them were in the rural areas. A significant feature of this occupation is that about 70 per cent of those engaged in it were women. Thus, of the total number of 2,259 basket-weavers, as many as 1,589 were women, the number of men being only 670. The products they make include mats, baskets, sieves and the like, for which there will be more demand during the harvest months. By and large, the persons engaged in this craft are poor and they eke out their livelihood with great difficulty.

Basket-Weavers

The leather-workers include shoe-makers, shoe-repairers, leather-cutters and the like. Their total number in the district in 1961 was 1,266. They are either independent workers or are employed by tanners. On an average, the employees are paid about Rs. 2 to Rs. 3 a day. The independent workers pursue their occupation with their small capital.

Leather Workers

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