

Engineers :

In 1943 there were 34 engineers and supervisors, eight draughtsmen and three other miscellaneous workers in the Public Works Department. No information about engineers employed in the private institutions during this period is available although it is certain that engineers must have been employed in the mills as well as in other industrial firms. But the 1961 census throws some light on this aspect. In the entire Union Territory there were 93 civil engineers, 21 mechanical engineers, 16 electrical engineers, 13 surveyors and 65 other categories of engineers, surveyors, architects not elsewhere classified. According to the 1971 census there were 256 architects, engineers, technologists and surveyors and as many as 215 engineering technicians in the Territory. It may safely be assumed that the figures given above also include the engineers etc., under private employment.

Artists

The temples, churches and mosques in and around Pondicherry bear clear testimony to the very high standard of skill of Pondicherry's craftsmen. Even now there is no dearth of painters and decorators in Pondicherry. Their workmanship can be seen and appreciated in the decorated marriage pandals and funeral *pallakkus*. Similarly dancing and music flourished under the patronage of the large number of temples. With the onset of printing, Pondicherry made its mark also in the realm of journalism since 1838.

As per the 1961 census, musicians and related workers numbered 153, painters and decorators 68, translators 35, editors, journalists and related workers 21, dancers and related workers nine, actors five, authors four, sculptor and modellers one and artists not elsewhere classified three. In 1971 there were 41 poets, authors, journalists and related workers, 90 sculptors, painters, photographers and related creative artists and 152 composers and performing artists in the Territory.

III. Domestic and personal services.

Barbers :

The barbers belong to the backward castes known as 'Ambattans', 'Navithans', 'Maruthuvars' and 'Pariyaris'. Native customs envisage the presence of the barbers and washermen at all domestic functions and religious ceremonies whether auspicious or not. For their customary duties they are paid mostly in paddy at the time of harvest. Though this practice still continues in some villages, the barbers in some of the villages and in all the towns have opened saloons where they are paid in cash.

In Pondicherry they have formed an Association to look after their interests. This Association fixes the rate for hair cuts, shave, etc. Barbers in the town do not usually attend to their clients at their houses. In villages they function independently but in the city those owning shops are assisted by other paid hands. The workers are paid monthly wages or an agreed percentage of the amount charged for every individual attended by them. The barbers in rural areas however continue visiting the houses of their customers. According to the 1961 census there were 691 persons in the Territory under the category of 'Barbers, hair-dressers, beauticians and related workers.' Their number increased to 697 in 1971. This is almost exclusively a male profession with only one female reporting as a hair-dresser in 1961 and none in 1971.

Washermen :

In 1961 there were in all 1,592 launderers, washermen and dhobies of whom women formed more than one third. In 1971, the total number of launderers, dry cleaners and pressers not elsewhere counted, amounted to only 1,330, with only 283 females engaged in the occupation. A good number of laundries have sprung up both in urban and rural areas with a relatively higher concentration in the urban areas. The practice of dhobies going round the houses for collecting the clothes is fast dying out. Ironing is usually done in the shop itself, while washing is done either in the village or in the *dhobikanas* constructed for the purpose. The practice of carrying washed clothes and delivering them at the premises of the owners is slowly dying. In the rural areas this practice however continues.

Tailors :

During pre-merger days when Pondicherry was a free port, all kinds of foreign textiles, cotton, wool, velvet, silk, etc., imported from Japan, England and France were freely available in the local market giving rise to a great demand for such fabrics. Those who preferred to take them outside the Territory, often got them converted into dresses. A number of tailoring shops sprang up in the town. In between 1949-54 tailors did a flourishing business.

After merger, the teaching of tailoring and embroidery formed an important aspect of the welfare schemes. In the Labour Welfare Centres at Mudaliyarpettai, Gandhinagar, Ariyankuppam and Karaikal the women folk belonging to working class families were taught tailoring and various handicrafts. Thus more opportunities for learning this trade have opened up in the Territory.

According to the 1961 census there were 1,280 tailors, dress-makers and garment-makers out of whom as many as 1,239 were tailors. The trade is dominated by males and mainly half of them are concentrated in the urban areas. Subsequent to 1961, many development schemes were launched thus creating employment opportunities both in the public and private sectors. In 1971, their number increased to 1,613.

Domestic servants:

Housekeepers, cooks, maids and related workers engaged both by houses and institutions may be placed under this category of workers. With the increase in population, the demand for domestic servants also increases. But the establishment of many small and medium scale industries like hoisery, machine, cycle-spare parts, switches, matches, umbrella ribs, etc., provided better avenues of employment for these servants and hence there was dearth of hands for domestic service. Those in need of such services were reluctant to employ them as whole time servants. They prefer employing maid servants on a part-time basis, their wages ranging between Rs. 10 and Rs. 50 per month with or without food either part-time or whole time. If the cook or the servant maid continues to work in a house for the entire year, a piece of sari is generally presented on occasions like Deepavali or Pongal. But well-to-do families engaged wholetime servants or cooks, the latter being mostly women. The female servant-cum-cook gets Rs. 20 or more per month in addition to food and clothing. Male servants always prefer to work as butlers, cooks, bearers, waiters, etc., in big establishments in the town. Being unskilled workers these domestic servants generally get low wages when compared to other occupations.

The number of house-keepers, cooks, maids and related workers in the Territory according to the 1961 census was 3,389, out of which 2,215 almost amounting to two-thirds were found concentrated in urban areas. The 1971 census registered 75 house keepers, matrons and stewards (both domestic and institutional) 2,148 cooks, waiters, bartenders and related workers (both domestic and institutional) and 1,006 maids and related house keeping service workers, not elsewhere counted.

REFERENCES :

1. Census of India 1961, Vol. XXV Pondicherry State, Part II-A & B, General Population Tables and General Economic Tables, *ad passim*.
2. Census of India 1971, Series 29-Pondicherry-Part II, A, B, C & D, *ad passim*.