CHAPTER-V

OCCUPATIONAL STRUCTURE

5.1 INTRODUCTION:

The study of occupational structure occupies an important position in the field of population geography. The social and economic development of any region depends on the number of persons who are economically active and it also depends on the quality and regularity of their work. The proportion of economically active population in various occupations indicates that economic profile of various groups of society.

The occupational structure of a society is the product of a number of intimately related factors. The nature and variety of physical resources base of course, lays down the basic foundation in the form of good land for agriculture, indented coast for fishing, thick vegetation cover for forestry, rich geological strata for mining, etc. (Chandana 1986).

The occupation depends upon the degree of economic development and sophistication of a country. (Ghosh1985). The occupational structure is essential to understand the Scheduled Caste and its distribution into various occupations as well as sex wise participation in different economic activities. The study of economic composition of population remains incomplete without its reference to the occupational composition of
a population. The occupation of an individual refers to his trade, profession, type of work etc. reveals the nature of economic progress of a country. It is related to agriculture, industry and service. The occupational structure of a society is the product of a number of intimately related factors.

The nature and variety of physical resources base of course, lays down the basic foundation in the form of good land for agriculture indented coast for fishing, thick vegetation cover for forestry, rich geological strata for mining etc. When the primary resources are utilized on a commercial scale, it generates diversification of occupational structure. The diversification process gets further imputes from industrialization because industrialization generates a variety of traditional jobs. Advancement in science and technology introduces an element of specialization in the occupational composition by creating highly specialized types of jobs. These entire development together breed a new urban culture, which is more service oriented. It modifies the occupational structure considerably commercialized in the use of primary resources diversifies the occupational structure, which their use at subsistence level keeps the economy orienting to a few activities, such activities are related to production, exchange and consumption of various commodities.

These activities fall into three categories i.e. Primary, Secondary and Tertiary depending upon the manner in which efforts applied to them and the relationships between the effects and the products on the
above mentioned are the major occupational components of working population which form the core of the economic system of the region. The occupational structure is an important index to throw light upon the composition of dynamics of health and vigor of a region.

The size of working force depends upon a variety of demographic, social and economic factors. Occupation as means of livelihood has its own significance distinguishing a man from another, providing every individual a feeling of economic independence and at the same time, it unites men different origins, social and cultural background. On the new lines work today an occupation is recognised as a means of livelihood and it is also believed to be an economically productive pursuit.

Occupational structure refers to the aggregate distribution of occupations in society, classified according to skill level, economic function or social status. The occupational structure is shaped by various factors:

- The structure of the economy (the relative weight of different industries);

- Technology and bureaucracy (the distribution of technological skills and administrative responsibility);

- The labour-market (which determines the pay and conditions attached to occupations); and
• By status and prestige (influenced by occupational closure, life-style, and social values). It is difficult to attach causal primacy to any one of these factors; moreover, their role in shaping the occupational structure changes over time, as society changes. For example, during the early phase of European industrialization, the dominance of manufacturing made for a preponderance of manual occupations, while in recent times the shrinking of this sector, together with the growth in services, has made for an expansion of white-collar occupations.

The distinction between manual and non-manual occupations has also become blurred. The occupational structure is described and analyzed by means of various classificatory schemes, which group similar occupations together according to specific criteria such as skill, employment status, or function. Such classifications are also used as a basis for the empirical analysis of economic and social class.
5.2 CLASSIFICATION OF OCCUPATION

The study of occupational structure provides background knowledge for formulating future development plans. The occupation means doing a certain type of work.

The term ‘work’ is used in special sense in the census. Work may be defined as a participation in economically productive activity. The participation is physical or mental in nature (Census of India 1991).

However, a person doing any type of economically productive activity is a worker. Thus work involved not only actual work but also effective supervision and direction of work.

According to Census of India 1981 the working population grouped into three major groups.

1) Main workers

2) Marginal workers

3) Non workers.

Main workers are those who had worked for the major part of the year (at least 6 months or 183 days). The marginal workers are those who worked for some time during the one year, but not for the major part. The
non workers are those who had not worked at all during the one year. Non workers include students, dependents, retired persons, persons engaged in household duties and beggars. There is a large variety of occupations. Therefore Census authorities have classified main workers into following categories during 1981.

1. Cultivation.
2. Agricultural Labourers.
3. Household industry (Manufacturing, processing, service and repairs).
4. Other workers.

At the time of 1991 Census, there has been change in classification of workers. The main workers classified into nine industrial categories.

1. Cultivators.
2. Agricultural Labourers.
3. Livestock and forestry, fishing, hunting, plantation and allied activities.
4. Mining and quarrying.
5. Manufacturing, processing and repairs.
   a) Household industry. b) Other than household industry.
6. Construction
7. Trade and commerce.
8. Transport, storage and communication

9. Other services.

During Census 2001, there has been again change in classification of workers. The main workers classified into four categories.

1. Cultivators.

2. Agricultural Labourers.

3. Household industries.

4. Other services.

It has became very difficult to make analysis of occupational characteristics within the study region, due to there is large variety of occupational categories classified by Census authorities in Census 1981, 1991 and 2001. The task of attempting comparisons of four categories of workers in 1981, 2001 and nine industrial categories of 1991 is not easy.

For the purpose of simplification, these industrial categories can be reduced to the following three major categories for proper analysis. (Ghosh 1985)

1. Primary activities. (Agriculture, forestry, hunting, fishing, mining, quarrying etc.)
2. Secondary activities. (Manufacturing, construction, power generation etc.)

3. Tertiary activities. (Commerce, storage, transport, miscellaneous services etc.)

Similarly, the study region grouped into primary, secondary and tertiary activities individually for the Census years (1971-2011). The present investigation for proper comparison the study region grouped into total, rural urban, male and female workers in primary, secondary and tertiary sector of economy.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SUB-DIVISION</th>
<th>MAIN WORKERS</th>
<th>MARGINAL</th>
<th>NON WORKERS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DARJEELING</td>
<td>32.76</td>
<td>27.52</td>
<td>4.46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KALIMPONG</td>
<td>33.16</td>
<td>24.53</td>
<td>7.64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KURSEONG</td>
<td>29.64</td>
<td>25.33</td>
<td>5.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SILIGURI</td>
<td>21.47</td>
<td>31.27</td>
<td>12.17</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5.3 MAIN WORKERS

Main workers are those who work in some of the economic activities and other allied services for a definite period of time in any sector i.e. primary, secondary and tertiary. This group of working population works for the major part of the year preceding the enumeration. Sub-Division analysis of main workers of Darjeeling district in the year 1971 shows that the Kalimpong subdivision has the maximum of (33.16%) people engaged in this sector and Siliguri subdivision has minimum of (21.47%) followed by Darjeeling subdivision (32.76%) and Kurseong (29.64%). During 2011 Siliguri subdivision had (31.27%) of people engaged in this sector followed by Darjeeling subdivision (27.52%), Kurseong subdivision (25.33%) and Kalimpong subdivision (24.53%).

5.4 MARGINAL WORKERS

Sub-division wise analysis of marginal workers in 1971 shows that the highest percentage recorded in Siliguri sub-division (12.17%) followed by Kalimpong (7.64%), Kurseong (5.04%) and Darjeeling (4.46%). Whereas in 2011 the highest marginal workers are found in Kalimpong subdivision (13.49%) followed by Darjeeling (9.51%), Kurseong (8.09%) and Siliguri (6.22%).
5.5 NON-WORKERS

Non-workers are those who did not work at all during the reference period were treated as non-workers. This group consists of the full time students, did not participate in any economically activity paid or unpaid, the housewives attending mainly to house-keeping and allied work of an unproductive nature depends including who are too young or too old to work, the disabled person etc.

In 1971, Siliguri sub-division has the highest number of people who are non-workers (66.36%) followed by Kurseong (65.32%), Darjeeling (62.78%) and Kalimpong (59.20%).

During 2011 Kurseong sub-division has the maximum number of people who are non-workers (66.58%) followed by Darjeeling (62.98%), Siliguri (62.52%) and Kalimpong (61.98%).
5.6 ANALYSIS OF OCCUPATIONAL STRUCTURE:

The sub-division wise occupational structure of Darjeeling district is presented in the following four categories

1. Cultivators (I)
2. Agricultural Labourers (II)
3. Household Industry (Va)
4. Others workers

Category III (Livestock, Forestry, Fishing, Hunting, Plantation, Orchards and allied activities), Category IV (Mining & Quarrying), Category V(b) (Manufacturing, Processing, servicing in other than household industry) and Category VI (Construction) to Category IX(other workers) have been included in the category of other workers. An attempt is made to interpret the data from 1971 & 2001 census. Table 5.2 gives the distribution of the workers among these 4 categories.
### TABLE 5.2 SUB-DIVISION WISE OCCUPATIONAL STRUCTURE OF DARJEELING DISTRICT 1971-2011.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SUB-DIVISION</th>
<th>CLASS OF WORKERS</th>
<th>CULTIVATORS</th>
<th>AGRICULTURAL LABOURERS</th>
<th>HOUSEHOLD INDUSTRY</th>
<th>OTHER WORKERS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DARJEELING</td>
<td></td>
<td>32.14</td>
<td>11.12</td>
<td>6.70</td>
<td>3.61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KALIMPONG</td>
<td></td>
<td>51.97</td>
<td>27.03</td>
<td>11.10</td>
<td>10.17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KURSEONG</td>
<td></td>
<td>16.47</td>
<td>9.08</td>
<td>7.36</td>
<td>4.81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SILIGURI</td>
<td></td>
<td>27.05</td>
<td>6.35</td>
<td>10.85</td>
<td>6.51</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5.7 CULTIVATORS

For the purpose of the census, a person is working as a cultivator if he or she is engaged in agriculture pursuits. In 1971, sub-division wise analysis shows that, Kalimpong sub-division has (52.97%) of cultivators followed by Darjeeling (32.14%), Siliguri (27.05%) and Kurseong (5.11%). In 2011, Kalimpong sub-division has (27.03%) of cultivators followed by Darjeeling (11.12%), Kurseong (9.08%) and Siliguri (6.35%).

5.8 AGRICULTURAL LABOURERS

Sub-division wise analysis of 1971 census shows that, the highest number of agricultural labourers are more in Kalimpong sub-division (11.10%), because this sub-division are suitable for agriculture and it is followed by Siliguri (10.85%), Kurseong (7.36%) and Darjeeling (6.70%). In 2011, Agricultural labourers are more in the Kalimpong sub-division (10.17%) followed by Siliguri (6.51%), Kurseong (4.81%) and Darjeeling (3.61%).

5.9 HOUSEHOLD INDUSTRY

Household industry category is an important economic activity. In a household industry goods are manufactured, processed, serviced or repaired mainly by the members of the same household generally within their own premises. It can be seen from Figure 5.2 that sub-division wise analysis of 1971 shows that Siliguri sub-division has (6.34%) of household
industry followed by Darjeeling (4.26%), Kurseong (3.45%) and Kalimpong (3.41%). In 2011, Kurseong sub-division recorded the highest household (2.32%) followed by Siliguri (2.17%), Kalimpong (2.06%) and Darjeeling (1.39%).

5.10 OTHER WORKERS

Other workers constitute the last category. Other workers are those who have been engaged in some economic activity during the last one year but are not cultivators or agricultural labourers or in household industry. The categories of other workers include all government servants, municipal employees, teachers, factory workers, plantation workers, those engaged in trade, commerce, business, transport, banking, mining, construction, political or social work, priests, entertainment artists etc. During 1971, the highest proportion of other workers are found in Kurseong sub-division (72.71%) followed by Darjeeling (56.54%), Siliguri (55.76%) and Kalimpong (33.51%). Whereas, in 2011, highest proportion was in Siliguri (84.98%) followed by Darjeeling (83.87%), Kurseong (83.80%), and Kalimpong (60.73%).

It can be seen from Table 5.2 that, in Darjeeling, Kalimpong, Kurseong and Siliguri sub-division, the number of other workers has increased substantially from 1971 to 2011. It can also be observed from the above table that the occupational structure of Darjeeling district changed drastically between 1971 to 2011 where the concentration of workforce
shifted from cultivators, agricultural labourers and household industry towards other workers. It can be infered that the percentage of other workers in Darjeeling district is much higher when compared with cultivators, agricultural labourers and household industries.

5.11 DISTRIBUTION OF WORKERS IN DARJEELING DISTRICT 1971-2001

The distribution of workers in Darjeeling district is divided into three main categories namely primary, secondary and tertiary. Primary activities include cultivators, agricultural labourers, livestock, forestry, fishing, hunting, plantation, orchards, mining and quarrying. The secondary activities include manufacturing, processing, servicing and repairs (household and non-household) and construction. Tertiary activities include trade and commerce, transport storage and communication and other services, workers of state and central government, local authorities, quasi-government body, education, scientific, medical health, religious, community services.
TABLE 5.3: SUBDIVISION WISE WORKERS IN DIFFERENT SECTORS OF DARJEELING DISTRICT 1971-2001

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SUB-DIVISION</th>
<th>PRIMARY</th>
<th></th>
<th>SECONDARY</th>
<th></th>
<th>TERTIARY</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DARJEELING</td>
<td>46.31</td>
<td>26.67</td>
<td>8.91</td>
<td>3.4</td>
<td>44.78</td>
<td>69.93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KALIMPONG</td>
<td>66.07</td>
<td>52.02</td>
<td>6.23</td>
<td>4.58</td>
<td>27.7</td>
<td>43.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KURSEONG</td>
<td>61.44</td>
<td>17.81</td>
<td>5.3</td>
<td>2.61</td>
<td>33.26</td>
<td>79.58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SILIGURI</td>
<td>20.99</td>
<td>18.98</td>
<td>13.82</td>
<td>1.99</td>
<td>65.19</td>
<td>79.03</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Fig. 5.4: District Wise Percentage of Occupation of Darjeeling District 1971 & 2001

1971

2001

Primary: Darjeeling 46.31, Kalimpong 66.07, Kurseong 61.44, Siliguri 20.99
Tertiary: Darjeeling 44.78, Kalimpong 27.7, Kurseong 33.26, Siliguri 65.19

Primary: Darjeeling 26.67, Kalimpong 52.02, Kurseong 17.8, Siliguri 69.93
Secondary: Darjeeling 4.58, Kalimpong 2.61, Kurseong 18.98, Siliguri 43.4
Tertiary: Darjeeling 3.4, Kalimpong 1.99, Kurseong 79.58, Siliguri 79.03
5.11.1 WORKERS IN PRIMARY SECTOR

during 1971, Kalimpong sub-division has the highest percentage of population engaged in primary activities 66.07%, it is due to the fertile soil followed by Kurseong 61.44%, Darjeeling 46.31% and Siliguri 20.99%. Whereas, in 2001, Kalimpong sub-division has the highest percentage of population 52.02% engaged in this activity. It is followed by Darjeeling 26.67%, Siliguri 18.89% and Kurseong 17.81%.

5.11.2 WORKERS IN SECONDARY SECTOR

during 1971, Siliguri sub-division has the highest percentage of population engaged in secondary activities 13.82% followed by Darjeeling 8.91%, Kalimpong 6.23% and Kurseong 5.30%. Whereas, in 2001, Kalimpong sub-division has the highest percentage of population 4.58% engaged in this secondary activity. It was followed by Darjeeling 3.40%, Kurseong 2.61% and Siliguri 1.99%.

5.11.3 WORKERS IN TERTIARY SECTOR

during 1971, Siliguri sub-division had 65.19% of population engaged in Tertiary sector followed by Darjeeling 44.78%, Kurseong 33.26% and Kalimpong 27.70%. During 2001, Kurseong sub-division had 79.58% of population engaged in this activity followed by Siliguri 79.03%, Darjeeling 69.93% and Kalimpong 43.40%.
REFERENCES


