

## **CHAPTER V**

### **Economic Trends and Miscellaneous Occupations**

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## CHAPTER V

### Economic Trends and Miscellaneous Occupations

#### 5.1 Introduction

Labour, being a primary factor of production and the size of labour force is of great importance for the level of economic activity in a country. It is helpful to understand some related concepts like work, workers and work participation rate being used in the Indian context.

‘Work’ has been defined in the Census of India, 1991 and in 2001 as participation in any economically productive activity. In practice, such participation may be physical or mental. The ‘work’ also includes unpaid work on a farm or in family enterprises. Work also includes supervision and direction. According to the Census, a distinction has to be made between ‘main workers’ and ‘marginal workers’. ‘Main workers’ are those who have worked at least for six months, whereas the ‘marginal workers’ are those who have worked for less than six months in any given year. There are also other workers not having any work in a year before the census date (Jhingan, et. al., 2003 and Census of India, 2001).

The main workers are divided into: (a) cultivators, (b) field workers, (c) persons engaged in household industry and (d) other workers. The non-workers are divided into: (i) persons engaged in unpaid home duties, (ii) students, (iii) dependents, (iv) retired persons, (v) beggars, (vi) inmates of jails and (vii) other non-workers not included in the above categories. Thus the total population of a country is divided into working population and non-working population. The working population is the labour force of a country, which excludes children below the age of 15, and old people above the age of 60 years (Jhingan, et. al., 2003).

In the 1961 Census, the basis of work was considered to be satisfied if a person in the case of seasonal work like cultivation, livestock, dairying, household industry, etc, had some regular work of more than one hour a day throughout the greater part of the working season. During 1961 Census, many such persons whose main activity was not economic were classified as workers (Datt and Sundharam, 1993).

A rigorous and more meaningful definition was again adopted in 1971 census. A worker according to the 1971 census is a person whose main activity is participation in any economically productive work by his physical or mental activity. Work involves not only actual work but also effective supervision and direction of work. This implies that a man or woman who is engaged primarily in household activities such as cooking for own household or a boy or girl who is primarily a student attending an institution, even if such a person helps in the family economic activity but not as a full time worker, should not be treated as a worker for the main activity.

The Census of 1981 carries forward the tradition of the Census of 1971 in making the definition of 'worker' rigorous and more meaningful and has classified the workers into 'main workers' and 'marginal workers'.

## 5.2 Livelihood Pattern

The work force participation rate in a country, i.e., proportion of working population to total population, depends upon such factors as age and sex composition, attitude to work, availability of work etc. all these factors differ in different countries and may differ even within the same country in periods.

**Table – 5.1: Total Main Workers**

District/ Sub-division		1961			1971			1981		
		Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females
Darjeeling (District)	Total	266105	178969	87136	282442	203273	79169	358590	265002	94588
	Rural	215983	134415	81568	229327	155144	74183	275137	189250	85887
	Urban	50127	44559	5568	53115	48129	4986	83453	74752	8701
Darjeeling (Sadar)	Total	86553	51880	34673	91269	55745	35524	100573	63112	37461
	Rural	72962	40365	32597	78969	45683	33286	84081	49315	34766
	Urban	13591	11515	2076	12300	10062	2238	16492	13797	2695
Kalimpong	Total	47347	25927	21420	54890	37505	17385	59381	40511	18870
	Rural	48490	29158	19332	48355	31848	16507	50365	32979	17386
	Urban	8857	6769	2088	6535	5657	878	9016	7532	1484
Kurseong	Total	32608	19918	12690	34762	21428	13334	38563	26338	12225
	Rural	28660	16601	12059	30636	17969	12667	31554	20520	11034
	Urban	3948	3317	631	4126	3459	667	7009	5818	1191

Source: District Census Handbook, Darjeeling, 1961, 1971 and 1981

Figure – 5.1

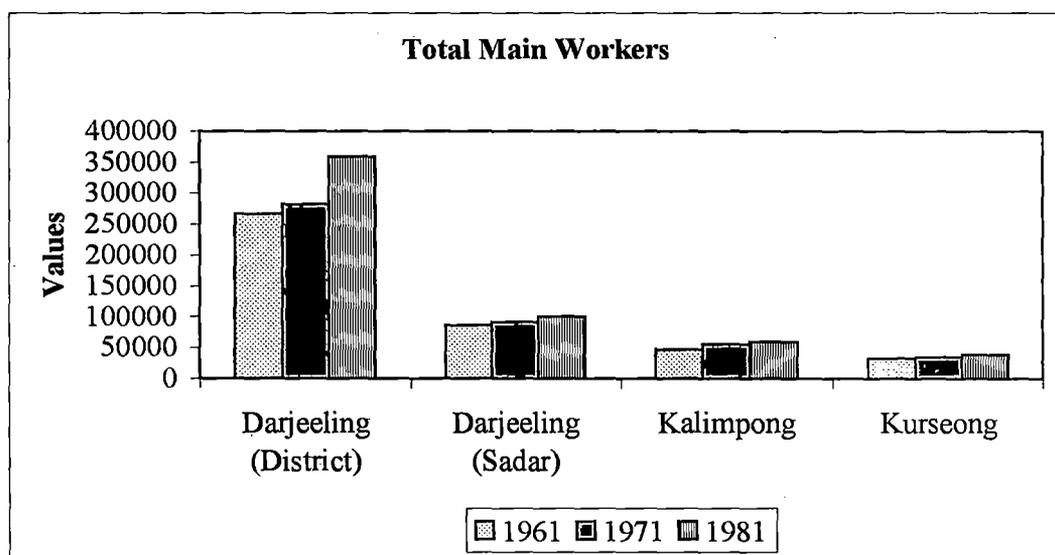


Table – 5.1 shows that the number of total main workers in the three hill subdivisions had increased between 1961 and 1981. But the rural main workers in Kalimpong subdivision had shown a decreasing trend during 1961-1971. Though during 1971-1981 the same had improved in this subdivision. The urban main workers in Darjeeling and Kalimpong subdivisions had also shown a decreasing trend during 1961-1971. However, during 1971-1981 the same had improved in both the subdivisions. Table – 5.1 reveals that as against the participation rate of female main workers recorded in 1961 Census, the proportion of female main workers returned in 1971 Census came down to some extent. This was mainly due to the fact that many of the housewives and students who were treated as workers on the basis of some marginal contribution in 1961 Census were not included in 1971 Census as workers. Consequently, the ratio of female workers to total female population got considerably reduced in 1971 Census. The work participation rate for females had shown a decreasing trend both in the district in general and in Kalimpong sub-division in particular during 1961-1971. However in Darjeeling and Kurseong sub-division the same had shown an increasing trend. During 1971-1981 female work participation rate had improved in the three hill sub-divisions and so also the district. The urban work participation rate for males had shown a decreasing trend both in Darjeeling and Kalimpong subdivisions during 1961-1971. However, during 1971-1981 the same had improved in both the sub divisions. Total main workers of the district as well as three hill subdivisions during 1961-81 are depicted in figure – 5.1.

**Table – 5.2: Non-Workers in Darjeeling District and Sadar, Kalimpong and Kurseong Subdivisions**

District/ Sub-division		1961			1971			1981		
		Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females
Darjeeling (District)	Total	358535	156067	202468	499335	212169	287166	653073	27370	379370
	Rural	264020	117082	146938	372238	159790	212448	455310	194835	260475
	Urban	94515	38985	55530	127097	52379	74718	197763	78868	118895
Darjeeling (Sadar)	Total	116970	53081	63889	153938	69696	84242	176390	79924	96466
	Rural	89910	41860	48050	123365	56772	66593	135562	62951	72611
	Urban	27060	11221	15839	30573	12924	17649	40828	16973	23855
Kalimpong	Total	63179	28754	34425	79648	34034	45614	97089	41326	55763
	Rural	46931	21573	25358	62753	27013	35740	73865	31864	42001
	Urban	16248	7181	9067	16895	7021	9874	23224	9462	13762
Kurseong	Total	48135	21871	26264	65471	29944	35527	72092	32658	39434
	Rural	38673	17986	20687	53172	24698	28474	50115	23300	26815
	Urban	9462	3885	5577	12299	5246	7053	21977	9358	12619

Source: District Census Handbook, Darjeeling, 1961, 1971 and 1981

**Figure – 5.2**

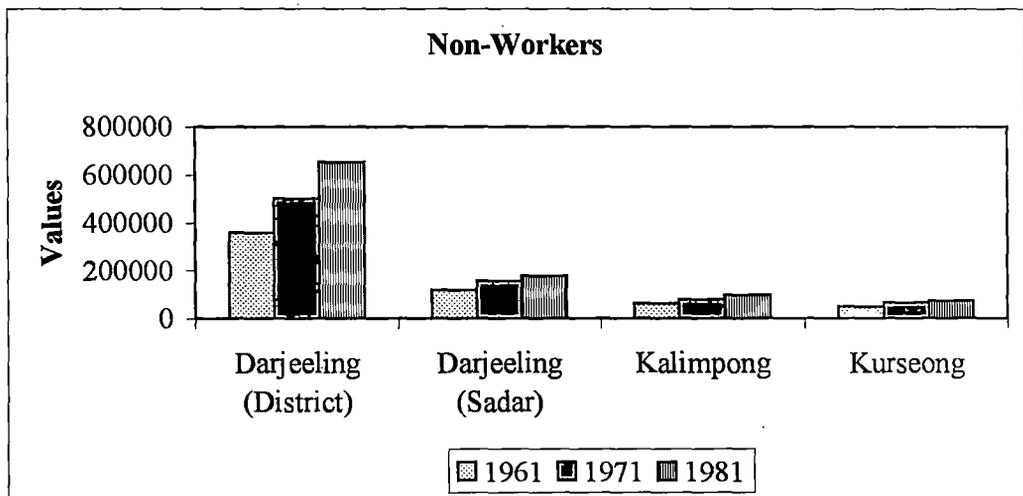


Table – 5.2 shows that the number of total non-workers in the three hill subdivisions had increased between 1961 and 1981. But the urban male non-workers in Kalimpong subdivision have shown a decreasing trend during 1961-1971. Though

during 1971-1981 the same has improved in this subdivision. Again the rural non-workers male as well as female in Kurseong subdivision has shown a decreasing trend during 1971-1981. Total non-workers of the district as well as three hill subdivisions during 1961-81 are depicted in figure – 5.2.

**Table – 5.3: Cultivators in the Hilly Subdivisions of Darjeeling District**

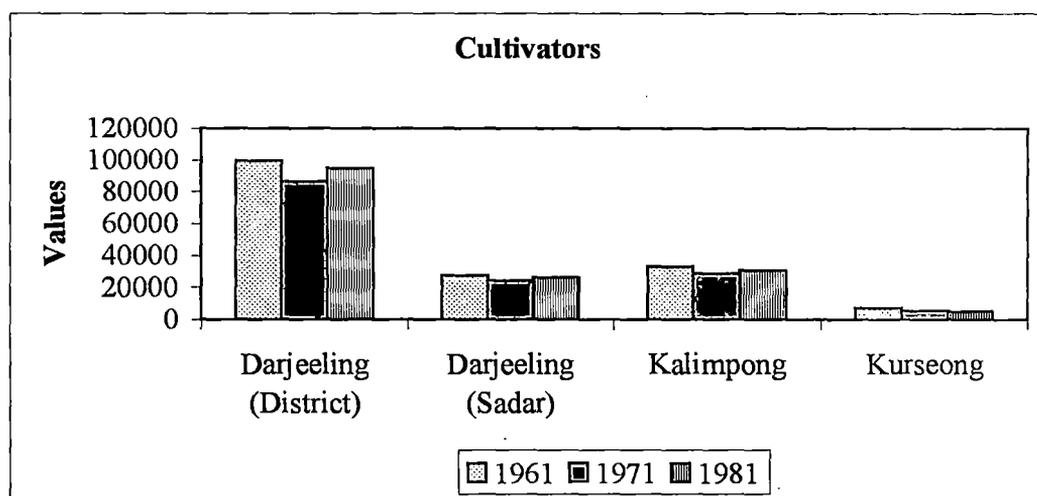
District/ Sub-division		1961			1971			1981		
		Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females
Darjeeling (District)	Total	99703	59825	39878	86054	60948	25106	94728	65679	29049
	Rural	99038	59436	39602	85336	60435	24901	94170	65238	28932
	Urban	665	389	276	718	513	205	558	441	117
Darjeeling (Sadar)	Total	27310	13941	13369	24332	14225	10107	26174	14750	11424
	Rural	27107	13839	13268	24028	14055	9973	26094	14674	11420
	Urban	203	102	101	304	170	134	80	76	4
Kalimpong	Total	32711	17325	15386	28529	17138	11391	30751	18864	11887
	Rural	32329	17112	15217	28275	16952	11323	30457	18672	11785
	Urban	382	213	169	254	186	68	294	192	102
Kurseong	Total	7304	3674	3630	5727	3567	2160	4997	2956	2041
	Rural	7302	3673	3629	5707	3548	2159	4953	2920	2033
	Urban	2	1	1	20	19	1	44	36	8

Source: District Census Handbook, Darjeeling, 1961, 1971 and 1981

Table – 5.3 shows that the number of total cultivators and total rural cultivators as well as the female total cultivators and rural female cultivators in the three hill subdivisions had decreased between 1961 and 1971. Though during 1971-1981 the same had improved in Darjeeling and Kalimpong subdivisions. But in Kurseong subdivision again the number decreased during 1971-1981. The male total cultivators, rural male cultivators and urban cultivators in Kalimpong subdivision decreased during 1961-1971, but it increased during 1971-1981. Again the male total cultivators and male rural cultivators in Kurseong subdivision decreased between 1961 and 1981. In Sadar subdivision the number of urban cultivators have first increased during 1961-1971, but then decreased during 1971-1981. In Kurseong subdivision the number of urban cultivators have increased between 1961 and 1981.

Total cultivators of the district as well as three hill subdivisions during 1961-81 are depicted in figure – 5.3.

**Figure – 5.3**



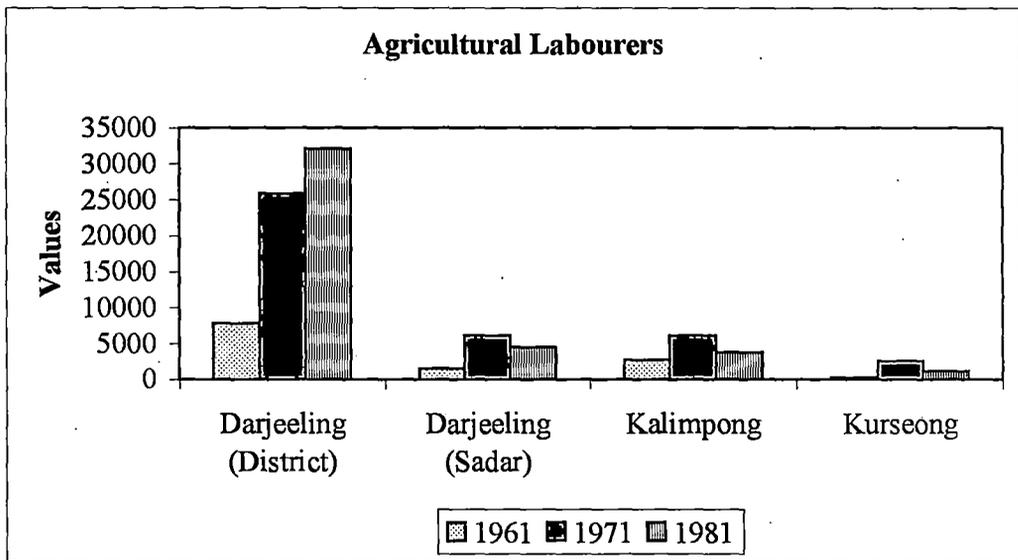
**Table – 5.4: Agricultural Labourers**

District/ Sub-division		1961			1971			1981		
		Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females
Darjeeling (District)	Total	7807	5361	2446	25783	18450	7333	32120	24807	7313
	Rural	7162	5044	2118	24982	17842	7140	31547	24359	7188
	Urban	645	317	328	801	608	193	573	448	125
Darjeeling (Sadar)	Total	1460	683	777	6117	3739	2378	4423	2873	1550
	Rural	1448	677	771	5873	3596	2277	4402	2858	1544
	Urban	12	6	6	244	143	101	21	15	6
Kalimpong	Total	2643	1510	1133	6095	3789	2306	3730	2574	1156
	Rural	2049	1235	814	5935	3675	2260	3522	2411	1111
	Urban	594	275	319	160	114	46	208	163	45
Kurseong	Total	311	186	125	2559	1587	972	1159	728	431
	Rural	311	186	125	2554	1582	972	1088	691	397
	Urban	0	0	0	5	5	0	71	37	34

Source: District Census Handbook, Darjeeling, 1961, 1971 and 1981

Table – 5.4 shows that the number of total agricultural labourers and rural agricultural labourers in the three hill subdivisions had at first increased between 1961 and 1971 then decreased between 1971 and 1981. The same pattern was also followed in Sadar subdivision for the urban agricultural labourers. In Kalimpong subdivision the number of urban agricultural labourers had decreased during 1961-1971, but it had increased during 1971-1981 excluding the female agricultural labourers, which again decreased marginally. In Kurseong subdivision the number of urban agricultural labourers increased between 1961 and 1981. Total agricultural labourers of the district as well as three hill subdivisions during 1961-81 are depicted in figure – 5.4.

Figure – 5.4



### 5.3 Level of Prices

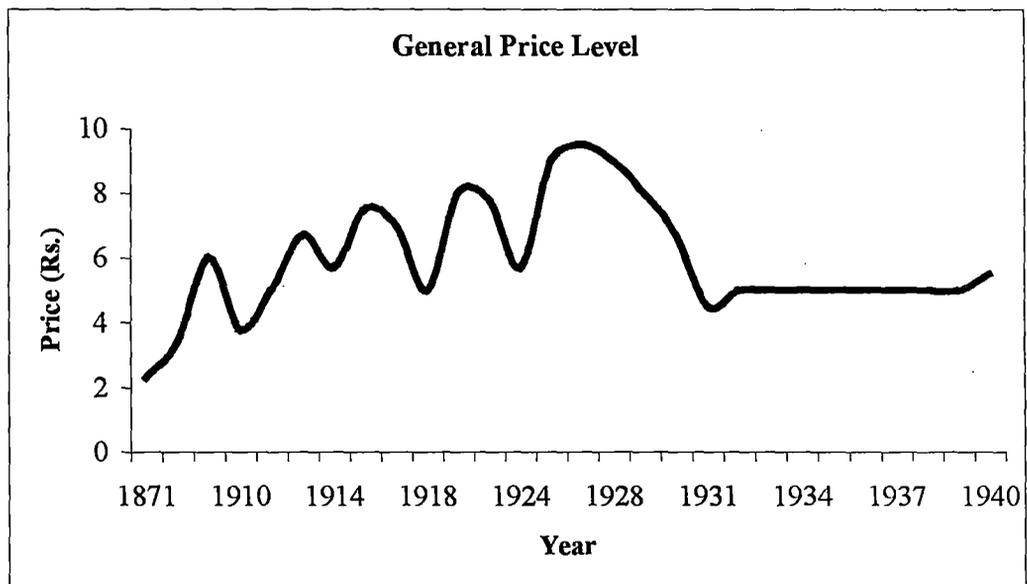
In 1871 the ordinary price of cheap rice eaten by coolies was Re. 1-4 a maund in the Terai and Rs. 2-4 a maund in the hills, while the other staple food of the people, Indian corn, was sold at Re. 1-8 a maund. In 1907, the price of these articles of food was 50 percent as great (Banerji, et. al., 1980). The general price level during 1871-1940 has been represented in table – 5.5.1 while the trend of general price level has been shown in figure – 5.5.1.

**Table – 5.5.1: Coarse rice (Prices in Rupees and Paise Per Maund): 1871-1940**

Year	Rs.	Year	Rs.	Year	Rs.	Year	Rs.
1871	2.3	1915	7.5	1927	9.5	1934	5
1903	3.4	1916	7	1928	9	1935	5
1907	6	1918	5	1929	8	1936	5
1910	3.8	1919	8	1930	6.7	1937	5
1912	5	1921	7.8	1931	4.5	1938	5
1913	6.7	1924	5.7	1932	5	1939	5
1914	5.7	1926	9	1933	5	1940	5.5

Source: Banerji, Amiya Kumar, et. al.: West Bengal District Gazetteers – Darjeeling, 1980

**Figure – 5.5.1**



From 1942 began a violent upward movement of prices corresponding to the famine prices, which developed in the rest of Bengal in 1943. The price of rice reached its peak of Rs. 40 per maund in 1943; it gradually declined and under government control it was steadied and came down to Rs. 13-12 in 1945 (Banerji, et. al., 1980). The general price level during 1943-68 has been represented in table – 5.5.2 while the trend of general price level has been shown in figure – 5.5.2.

This stability was, however, short-lived. From 1946 rice prices began to move up and reached the Rs. 33.50 per maund mark for the coarse variety in the wholesale markets of Siliguri in 1951 but gradually declined to Rs. 14.31 a maund in May 1955. There was a spurt in prices soon afterwards and the average price per maund of same variety progressively rose to Rs. 19.67 in 1956, Rs. 22.44 in 1957 and Rs. 26.14 in 1958 but receded to Rs. 23.19 in 1959, Rs. 21.75 in 1960, Rs. 19.56 in 1961 and Rs. 19.12 in 1962. This downward trend was reversed again by a spiralling of prices since 1963, when in October of the same year the price per quintal of coarse rice soared to Rs. 85.83 (the average for the year being Rs. 71.88) necessitating the intervention of the State Government, which controlled the prices of rice and paddy from 1964. The maximum retail price per kilogram of rice valid for April 1968 was Rs. 1.70. The price movements were not very significant in 1973 and 1974 in view of the galloping inflation (Banerji, et. al., 1980).

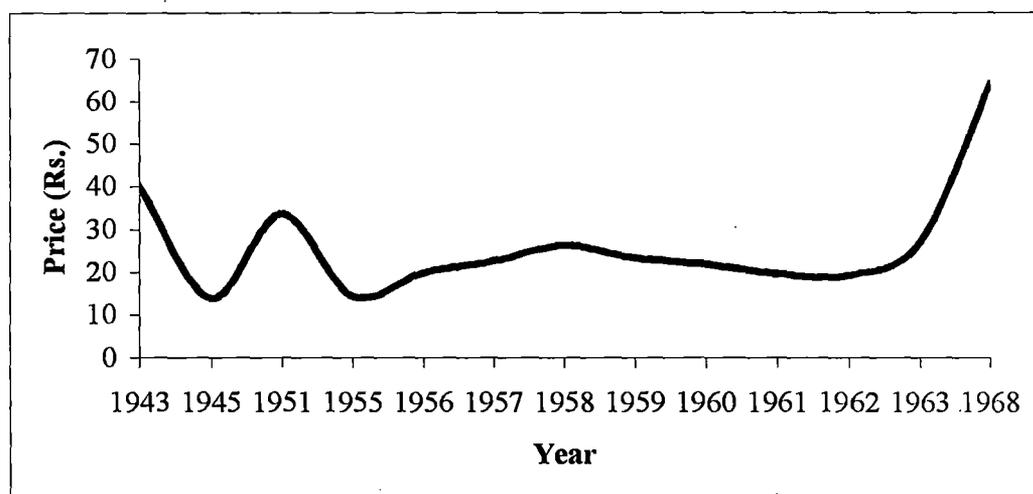
**Table – 5.5.2: Coarse rice (Prices in Rupees and Paise Per Maund): 1943-1968**

Year	Rs.	Year	Rs.
1943	40	1959	23.19
1945	13.8	1960	21.75
1951	33.5	1961	19.56
1955	14.31	1962	19.12
1956	19.67	1963	26.82
1957	22.44	1968	63.78
1958	26.14		

Source: Compiled by this scholar on the basis of the previous data

(According to the currency system prevalent before 1962, 1 anna = 6 paise, 2 anna = 12 paise, 3 anna = 19 paise, 4 anna = 25 paise, 5 anna = 31 paise, 6 anna = 37 paise, 7 anna = 44 paise, 8 anna = 50 paise, 9 anna = 56 paise, 10 anna = 62 paise, 11 anna = 69 paise, 12 anna = 75 paise, 13 anna = 81 paise, 14 anna = 87 paise, 15 anna = 94 paise and 16 anna = 100 paise)

**Figure – 5.5.2**  
**General Price Level**



## **5.4 Occupational Shifts**

### **5.4.1 Theories**

The occupational structure of a country refers to the distribution of its labour force in different occupations. A. G. B. Fisher was the first economist to introduce the concepts of primary, secondary and tertiary occupations in 1933. According to him, a country could be classified with respect to the proportions of their total labour force engaged in these sectors. The primary sector includes agriculture, animal husbandry, forestry, fishery, etc, and in some versions mining. The secondary sector comprises manufacturing of every type, generally mining and as rule construction. The tertiary sector consists of transport, communications, trade, government, banking, finance, insurance, personal and domestic services (Jhingam, et. al., 2003).

Colin Clark and Simon Kuznets in their separate researches employed this distinction between primary, secondary and tertiary production. All countries start with a heavy concentration of population in primary production. As national income increases steadily and the basic necessities of life are met, there is an occupational shift of labour and other resources into manufacturing or secondary production. As national income rises further and the market for manufactured goods becomes saturated, labour and other resources shift in to the service or tertiary sector (Jhingam, et. al., 2003).

Colin Clark in his study *Conditions of Economic Progress* draws three conclusions about the relationship between economic development and occupational distribution (Jhingan, et. al., 2003).

In the first phase of economic development, there is considerable decline in the proportion of persons engaged in agriculture and allied occupations, although the total number engaged in them continues to increase (Jhingan, et. al., 2003).

In the second phase of development, when the economy is sufficiently advanced, the absolute numbers engaged in agriculture begin to decline and shift to manufacturing (Jhingan, et. al., 2003).

In the third phase of economic development, the growth rate of working population engaged in tertiary occupation becomes greater than that engaged in the secondary sector but the difference in the rates of increase in the two sectors is not wide (Jhingan, et. al., 2003).

Kuznets in his book *Modern Economic Growth* explains changes in occupational structure based on the experiences of developed countries. According to him, with development, there are changes in occupational structure in the form of shift away from agriculture to non-agricultural activities and from industry to services, with a corresponding change in the occupational status of labour. His findings may summarize as:

- a) The proportion of population engaged in agricultural sector declines in the long run.
- b) The share of the agricultural sector in total product (national income) declines with economic development.
- c) The proportion of population engaged in the industrial sector increases in the long run.
- d) The share of the industrial sector rises in the total product.
- e) The shifting of labour from the agricultural to the industrial sector is accompanied by increase in efficiency or productivity of labour.
- f) As development gains momentum, the share of the services sector in the total product increases.

- g) The proportion of population engaged in the services sector rises gradually and is usually less than that in the industrial sector. Even when the economy is developed, the share of the services sector in the total labour force may either remain constant or rise little (Jhingan, et. al., 2003).

On the basis of the studies of Clark and Kuznets, economists identify underdeveloped countries with large labour force engaged in the primary sector having low per capita income; developing countries with large proportion of labour force engaged in the industrial sector with middle per capita income and developed countries with large percentage of labour force engaged in the services sector and also producing commodities with a high income elasticity of demand, and having high per capita income (Jhingan, et. al., 2003).

#### **5.4.2 Occupational Shifts in Darjeeling**

Economic development has positive impact on the occupational structure of the country. Again the occupational structure may be a good index about the level of economic development a particular country has achieved. The decomposition of the working force over decades may point out the relative shift in the structure of the work force associated with country's economic development. Initially at a static level of the economy, primary sector is most important as compared to secondary and tertiary sector. This is reinforced by the fact that there is no conscious attempt for industrialization. Therefore, the growing population has no alternative but to join in this traditional sector. The dependence of too many working population on this relatively stagnant sector provides only subsistence. The marginal productivity of the labourers engaged in this sector being almost zero leaves nothing for capital formation which is the cornerstone of economic development. The main thrust of economic development is to create infrastructure of industrialization and to dynamise the traditional agriculture by introducing modernization and to shift the surplus work force from the primary activities to the secondary sector. When economic development gathers momentum and more and more investment is made on industrialization of the country, secondary sector begins to absorb the larger and larger workforce of the country. As industrialization gets impetus, different types of allied activities like marketing, insurance, banking and finance and demand for

general services grow *pari passu*. At a matured stage of economic development the tertiary sector becomes most important engaging the largest working population of the country (Sanyal, 1986).

The history of economic development of the developed countries like U.K., U.S.A., Japan, France, West Germany, Sweden and U.S.S.R. clearly revealed, that, there was a clear shift in the working population from primary occupation to secondary and tertiary activities (Sanyal, 1986).

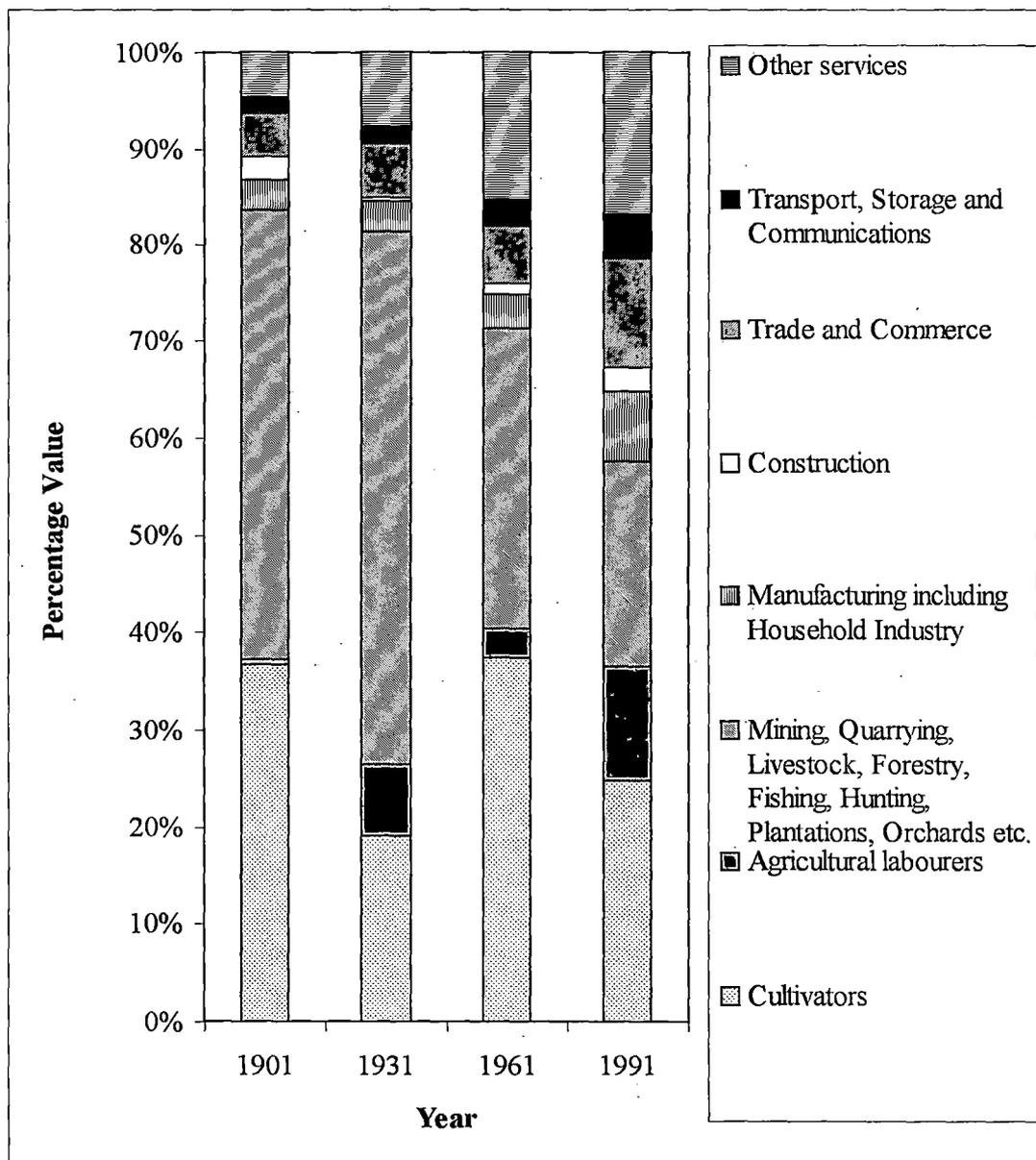
Occupational shifts experienced in the district over three generations between 1901 and 1991 are shown in the table – 5.6, in figure – 5.6 and in figure – 5.7.

**Table – 5.6: No. of Workers in Different Years (Their Percentages to Total Workers)**

Category of workers	1901	1931	1961	1991
Total workers	154489 (100.00)	122904 (100.00)	266105 (100.00)	444832 (100.00)
Cultivators	56811 (36.77)	23346 (18.99)	99703 (37.47)	110051 (24.74)
Agricultural labourers	691 (0.45)	9069 (7.38)	7807 (2.94)	52579 (11.82)
Mining, Quarrying, Livestock, Forestry, Fishing, Hunting, Plantations, Orchards, etc.	71555 (46.32)	67568 (54.98)	82236 (30.90)	93504 (21.02)
Manufacturing including Household Industry	4925 (3.19)	3838 (3.12)	9306 (3.51)	32072 (7.21)
Construction	3729 (2.41)	550 (0.45)	3160 (1.19)	10676 (2.40)
Trade and Commerce	7033 (4.55)	6781 (5.52)	15592 (5.86)	50533 (11.36)
Transport, Storage and Communications	2627 (1.70)	2423 (1.97)	7756 (2.92)	20640 (4.64)
Other services	7118 (4.61)	9329 (7.59)	40545 (15.21)	74776 (16.81)

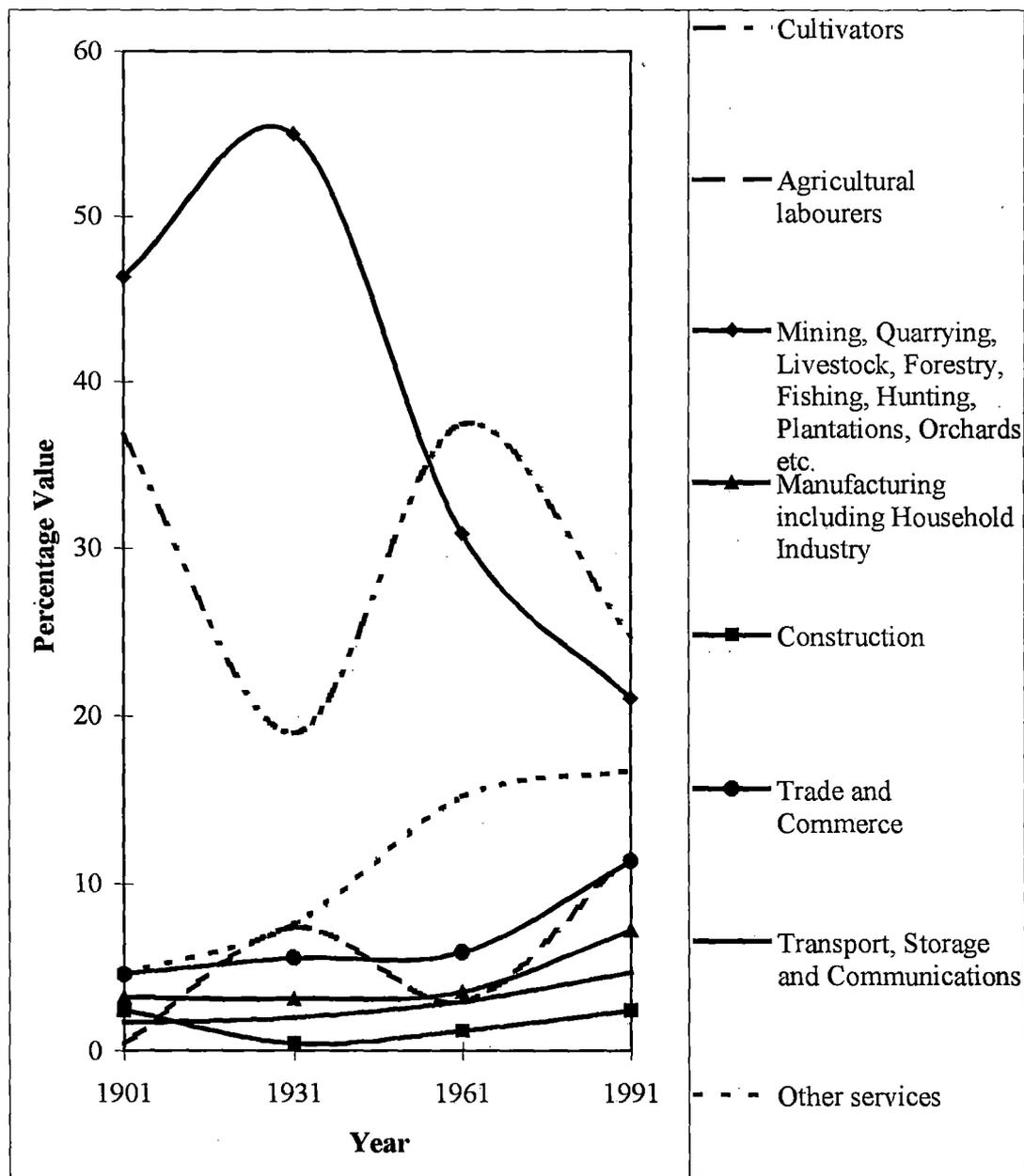
Source: Compiled by this scholar from Banerji, Amiya Kumar, et. al.: West Bengal District Gazetteers – Darjeeling, 1980 and District Census Handbook, Darjeeling, 1991

**Figure – 5.6: Percentage of Workers**



Out of the 154489 total workers in 1901, 36.77 percent are cultivators, 0.45 percent are agricultural labourers, 46.32 percent are engaged in mining, quarrying, livestock, forestry, fishing, hunting, plantations, orchards etc., 3.19 percent are engaged in manufacturing including household industry, 2.41 percent in construction works, 4.55 percent are engaged in trade and commerce, 1.7 percent in transport, storage and communications and 4.61 percent in other workers. In 1931, out of the 122904 total workers, 18.99 percent are cultivators, 7.38 percent are agricultural

Figure – 5.7: Occupational Shifts in Different Years



labourers, 54.98 percent are engaged in mining, quarrying, livestock, forestry, fishing, hunting, plantations, orchards etc., 3.12 percent are engaged in manufacturing including household industry, 0.45 percent are engaged in construction works, 5.52 percent are engaged in trade and commerce, 1.97 percent are engaged in transport, storage and communications and 7.59 percent are other workers. Again in 1961 the number of total workers is 266105 and in 1991 the same is 444832. In 1961 and 1991 the percentage increase in workers as cultivators is 18.48 and -12.73, as agricultural

labourers is -4.44 and 8.88, in mining, quarrying, livestock, forestry, fishing, hunting, plantations, orchards, etc. is -24.08 and -9.88, in manufacturing including household industry is 0.39 and 3.7, in construction 0.74 and 1.21, in trade and commerce is 0.34 and 5.5, in transport, storage and communications is 0.95 and 1.72 and in other services is 7.62 and 1.6 respectively.

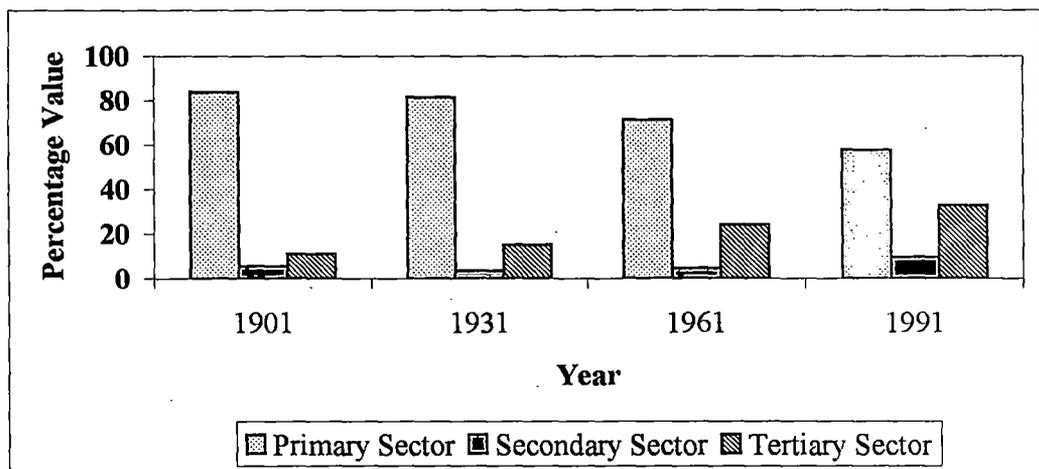
‘Service Sector’ in Darjeeling hill areas was historically associated with tea plantation and of course with different government jobs. Many head offices of the gardens were located in Darjeeling. Up to 1961 service sector was the main sector in the urban areas of Darjeeling hill areas. It is still the most important sector.

**Table – 5.7: Occupational Shifts between Different Sectors from 1901-1991**

Category of workers	1901	1931	1961	1991
Primary Sector	83.54	81.35	71.31	57.58
Secondary Sector	5.6	3.57	4.7	9.61
Tertiary Sector	10.86	15.08	23.99	32.81

Source: Compiled by this scholar from table – 5.6

**Figure – 5.8: Occupational Structure from 1901-1991**



From table – 5.7 and figure – 5.8 it is evidently clear that there is no structural change for the district’s work force. The three hill subdivisions of Darjeeling district are predominantly agricultural in character. The most important industries are based on plantation and forestry.

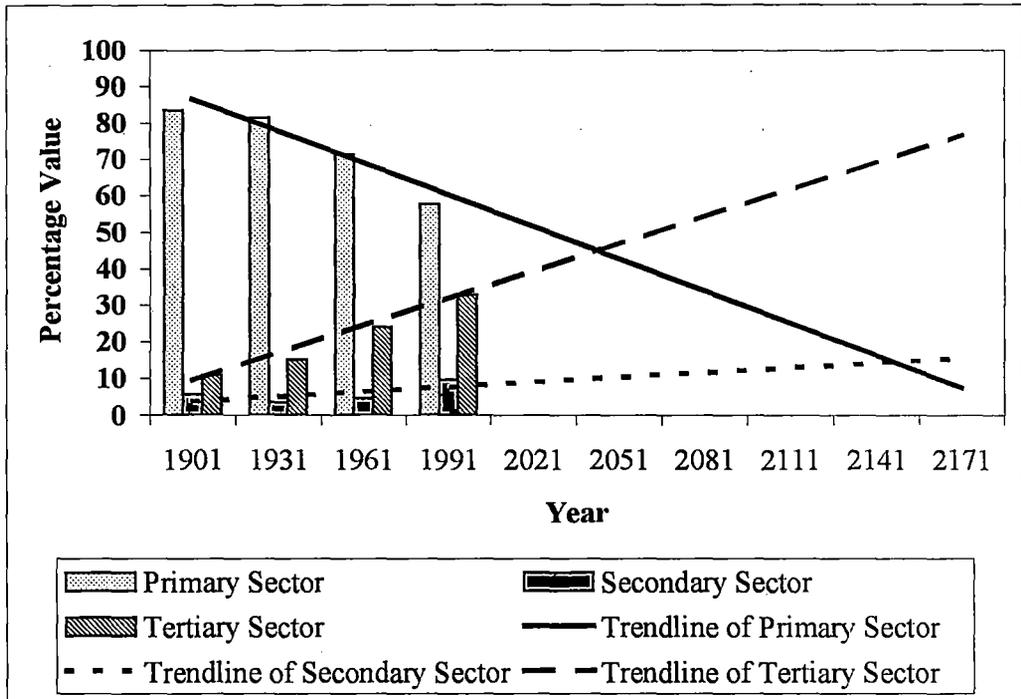
Occupational structure of working force of these regions has been studied from 1901 to 1991. The span of ninety years may be a quite good index to study the relative shift of the working force among these three sectors, i.e., primary, secondary and the tertiary. In this three hill subdivisions primary sector is the most dominant sector. Then come the tertiary and lastly the secondary one. That speaks of very low level of industrialization in this region (Sanyal, 1986).

In Darjeeling the dependency on the primary sector is gradually declining from 83.54 percent in 1901 to 57.58 percent in 1991. From 1901 to 1991 there is relative improvement in the secondary sector. In 1901 5.6 percent of the working force is coming within this sector whereas, in 1991 secondary sector absorbs 9.61 percent of the total work force. There is only 1½ times increase of work force in this sector during these ninety years duration. But remarkably according to 1931 Census only 3.57 percent of the working force is coming within this secondary sector as compared with 9.61 percent in 1991. Therefore, more than three times increase of work force in this sector during these years shows the impact of industrialization in this region. So far the tertiary sector is concerned the participation rate of the working force absorbed in this sector is gradually increased from 10.86 percent in 1901 to 32.81 percent in 1991, i.e., more than three times increase of the working force.

It can be concluded that the dependence on the primary sector is gradually declining. Over the ninety years there is a relative shift in the structure of working population from the primary to secondary and tertiary. (Sanyal, 1986)

Colin Clark has observed that during the process of economic growth there is a general tendency for tertiary industries to expand more rapidly than the secondary industries (Datt and Sundharam, 1993). The participation rate in the tertiary sector in Darjeeling is much higher than the secondary sector. These three hill subdivisions with added tourist attraction had led to the growth of allied activities that has reinforced the growth of tertiary sector (Sanyal, 1986). The growth of banking, finance, trade and commerce etc., are not only providing more employment but are generating the process of occupational shift in favour of tertiary sectors also (Datt and Sundharam, 1993).

**Figure – 5.9: Trend of Occupational Shifts in Future**



Though the primary sector in Darjeeling is now the largest sector, the tertiary sector is also growing rapidly and from the trend line depicted in figure – 5.9 it can be predicted that in the year 2036 the tertiary sector would rise above the primary sector. And that implies a definite shift will be there in occupational structure from primary sector to tertiary sector.

### 5.5 Conclusions

The definition of ‘worker’ in the different censuses is not uniform, but even then we study the trend of occupational distribution of labour force. We can conclude that, there was clear shift in the work force from the primary to the secondary and the tertiary sectors in Darjeeling since 1901. If we accept the thesis the economic development of a country is accompanied by a shift of the working population from the primary to the secondary and ultimately to the tertiary sectors, then clearly Darjeeling is on the highroad to economic progress.

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