

## CHAPTER V: OCCUPATIONAL PROFILE

Occupation is defined as the work that a person does particularly as a means of living. It is the fact that participation in occupation helps to create one's identity as well as meaningful lives and life. The central aspect of the human experience is occupation which fulfils all basic needs necessary for survival. Occupation helps to develop the innate capacities of a biological, social and cultural nature of human beings. Without occupation people cannot survive. All over the world people are involved in various occupations. In this connection the studied people primarily depend on stone based occupation for maintaining their livelihood. The details are discussed below –

### *Stone based Occupation*

The studied village, Purba Rangia is located on the Balasan river basin which is very nearer to Siliguri town where most of the people were involved in stone based occupation for maintaining their livelihood. It has been mentioned in earlier that the Balasan River comes down from the upper Himalayan region and with its flow various natural resources viz. Stone, boulder, sand etc. also come down and depend on its stone based occupation has been developed. Primarily the stone based occupation was the backbone of economy of the studied people. It was such type of economic sector where there was no need of monetary investment to do it. The stone based work was of various types such as stone collection, sand gathering, stone crushing, truck loading and so on. The details related to this economy are discussed below -

It is the fact that during coming down to the plain land from the upper Himalayan region the stones and boulders get broken gradually by the river flow.

***Stone and Sand:*** The studied people mainly depended on the stone based occupation. In this regard, different types of stones and boulders were available in the river, which were collected by the concerned people and then broke into different sizes and shapes as per necessity and later they sold it. On the basis of size and shape these were termed as

various names like *big size maitel*, *maitel-3/4(duplicate)*, *maitel-3/4(original)*, *big size boulder*, *medium size boulder*, *small size boulder*, *chipis-1/2 inch*, *chipis-1inch*, *brash maitel*, *single*, *acurate bajri*, *special bajri*, *pure bajri*, *chalu bajri*, *1/4-bajri*, *girit bajri*, *gota bajri*. As per the demand of outside markets the stones were further broken to give desire sizes and shapes by applying a number of processes which are discussed below briefly–

Three types of boulder were collected from the river directly. The stones like *brash* and *maitel* of both sizes were made through crushing from boulders. Particularly the *brash* and *big size maitel* were made from big size boulder. On the other hand, the *maitel-3/4* and the *big size maitel* were also made from medium size boulder; and the *maitel-3/4* could also be made from small size boulder through the process of crushing. The stone, *single* was picked out exclusively through shifting with the help of sieve without any other process and it was generally found in big size as compare to *bajri*. The *chipis* was such type of stone which was generally made from the single through the process of crushing. It was classified into two types on the basis of its size of which one was known as *chipis-1/2 inch* and another was *chipis-1inch*. On the other hand the sand was gathered from the river directly. Apart from these, two types of sand were found in the river, one was coarse sand and another was plain sand which were gathered by the people.

The sand and the stone like accurate, special and single had a high demand in the market. The stones and sand were used for various purposes which are mentioned below –

**Table 5.1: Usages of Different types of Stones and Sand**

Types of stone/sand	Purpose of use
Big size <i>maitel</i> and <i>maitel-3/4</i>	For road construction
Big size boulder	For damp making
Medium size boulder and small size boulder	For road construction
<i>chipis-1/2 inch</i> and <i>chipis-1 inch</i>	For pillar/beam making
<i>Single</i> and <i>brash maitel</i>	For road construction
All <i>bajri</i>	For building and road construction

Types of stone/sand	Purpose of use
Pure <i>bajri</i> and special <i>bajri</i>	For plinth and wall making and also for the well-ring and pillar making
Accurate and 1/4 <i>bajri</i>	For floor making
Accurate and <i>chipis</i>	For pillar and roof making
Sand	For building and road construction as well as for well-ring and pillar making also.

However, its demand was never constant forever because of changeable market demand. In this regard, the price of stones usually varied for its quality as well as for the market demand. Different types of stones and its price per 100 cft are shown below –

**Table 5.2: Distribution of Stones and Sand According to its Price per 100 cft**

Types of stone	Present price per 100 cft.	
	If a person crushes the stones after collection from the river	If a person crushes the stones provided by <i>Sardar</i>
Big size maitel	Rs. 400/-	Rs. 150/-
<i>maitel</i> -3/4(duplicate)	Rs. 400/-	Rs. 300/-
<i>maitel</i> -3/4(original)	Rs. 500/-	Rs. 300/-
<i>Chipis</i> -½ inch	Rs. 1200/-	Rs. 800/-
<i>Chipis</i> -1 inch	Rs. 800/-	Rs. 600/-
<i>Brash maitel</i>	Rs. 500/-	Rs. 300/-
Types of Stone	Sell it directly without any process of crushing and sifting	
Big size boulder	Rs. 90/- to Rs. 120/-	
Medium size boulder	Rs. 125/-	
Small size boulder	Rs. 100/-	
Types of stone	Sell it directly after sifting only	
<i>Single</i>	Rs. 100/-	
Accurate <i>bajri</i>	Rs. 800/-	
Special <i>bajri</i>	Rs. 400/-	
Pure <i>bajri</i>	Rs. 300/-	
<i>Chalu bajri</i>	Rs. 300/-	

Types of stone	Present price per 100 cft.	
	If a person crushes the stones after collection from the river	If a person crushes the stones provided by <i>Sardar</i>
$\frac{1}{4}$ bajri	Rs. 300/-	
Girit bajri	Rs. 400/-	
Gota bajri	Rs. 300/-	
Types of sand	Sell it directly after sifting only	
Coarse sand	Rs. 100/-	
Plain sand	Rs. 100/-	

**Wage for Truck Loading:** Two types of truck loading were usually found in the stone crushing field. One was stone loading and another was sand loading.

(a) **Stone Loading:** Generally the labour charge was paid as per the amount of stone loaded irrespective of any truck which was mainly considered in pursuance of 100 cft. In this way the labour groups were generally paid Rs. 300/- for loading of 400 cft stone which was shared among the labourers those who performed it together and often also rewarded through receiving Rs. 100/- from the truck drivers to complete it with hardness. The number of labourers were normally varied according to carrying capacity of the trucks which are mentioned below –

**Table 5.3: Involvement of Labourers According to Carrying Capacity of the Trucks**

Types of truck	No. of labourers were required for loading
Shaktiman (four wheeler)	4
Canter (four wheeler)	4 to 5
Punjab (six wheeler)	6
Punjab (ten wheeler)	7 to 8

(b) **Sand Loading:** Generally the Shaktiman truck went to the river directly for loading sand. But it never could be done in case of ‘Punjab’ truck and ‘Canter’ as those were always loaded from the river bed and often that could also be seen in case of Shaktiman

truck. The number of labourers and wage rate were generally varied as per the carrying capacity of the trucks which are mentioned below –

**Table 5.4: Involvement of Labourers and their Wage Rate According to Carrying Capacity of the Trucks**

Types of truck	No. of labourers were required for loading	Wage rate per truck loading
Shaktiman	4	Rs. 70/-
Big Canter	2	Rs. 100/-
Small Cnater	2	Rs. 100/-
Tata Canter	2	Rs. 100/-
Punjab Truck	6	Rs. 300/-

**Carrying Capacity, Trip and Destination of Different Trucks:** Different trucks were used to carry the stones and sand. In this context, the truck like Canter including ‘Tata 407’, ‘small Canter’, ‘big Canter’, ‘Punjab’ including six wheeler and ten wheeler, and ‘Shaktiman’ trucks were used. It was known that the ‘Tata’ and ‘small Canter’ carried the same whereas the ‘big Canter’ carried the doubles of the aforesaid trucks.

**Table 5.5: The Carrying Capacity of Different Trucks**

Type of trucks		Carrying capacity (stone/sand)
‘Canter’	Tata	100 cft. to 200 cft.
	Small Canter	100 cft. to 200 cft.
	Big Canter	300 cft. to 400 cft.
‘Punjab’	Six wheeler	400 cft. to 500 cft.
	Ten wheeler	700 cft. to 1100 cft.
‘Shaktiman’		125 cft. to 150 cft.

For local areas, the 'Shaktiman' truck usually carried sand or stone for five to six times in a day whereas the 'Shaktiman' or 'Tata' trucks for Siliguri or adjacent areas carried the same for four times in a day. But the trucks like 'Punjab' and all types of 'Canter' only once for a day.

**Table 5.6: Average Trip of Different Trucks per day**

Type of trucks		Average trip per day
Shaktiman for local areas		5-6 times
Shaktiman for Siliguri and adjacent areas		4 times
Punjab		1 time
Canter	Small Canter	1 time
	Big Canter	1 time
	Tata	1 time

The 'Shaktiman' truck and 'big Canter' covered entire local areas including Siliguri and its adjacent areas. On the other hand, the truck like 'Tata' and 'small Canter' covered the hilly areas as much as possible. But the 'Punjab' truck covered entire North Bengal and Kishanganj, Dalkhola etc. to supply stones and sand.

**Wage Rate and Payment:** The decision regarding changes of wage rate was generally taken by the truck owners without any discussion with others. The wage rate usually varied from stone to stone. It may be clear more through an example, if Rs. 50/- is increased as wage rate by the truck owners then *Sardar* will get Rs. 40/- and rest Rs. 10/- will be added with the previous rate which will be given to the labourers as a new rate. Thus, the labour groups were generally deprived of the original wage rate. Another regrettable matter was that the studied people were dispossessed of getting the proper wage in comparison to the market price. Even they were paid such amount of remuneration which was not adequate for eking out a living properly. The labourers usually got their payment from the *sardars* especially on weekly market day, Tuesday in every week. They purchased their daily essential goods, foods, vegetables and so on from the weekly market known as 'Matigara hat'.

**Types of Labour in the Stone Crushing Field:** There were different types of labour found to be involved in various kinds of stone based activities in the stone field. In this regard, the labour groups in the stone crushing field can broadly be classified into five categories. These are –

- (a) The labourers those who collected the stones directly from the river for crushing and then sold it to the *sardars* they could get appropriate rate according to its types and quality.
- (b) Some labourers who collected stones from the river and sold it directly to the *sardars* without any crushing.
- (c) Another kind of labourers those who crushed stones provided by the *sardars* as they did not collect it from the river directly. In this case they were able to get the rate pursuant to contact with the *sardars* in lieu of the actual rate of stones.
- (d) Some of the labourers in the stone crushing field mainly involved in truck loading.
- (e) In the stone crushing field a number of people were involved in sifting of stones to pick up the *single* and *bajri* and then sold it to the *sardars*.

**Lease Holder:** Pursuant to Government rules, a person usually may become a lease holder of five acres river-land for the period of five years. In this way, there were ten lease holders from the Balasan river bridge to M.M. Terrain region. If a person wanted to be a lease holder then he had to apply for the same to the Government along with proper residential certificate of local area or adjacent area and other necessary testimonials. The selection was made in a proper way through Writers Building, Kolkata. After the fulfillment of all the procedures, the said amount of land was to be leased in the name of the selected person for five years but a condition was imposed on that lease holder by the Government. The condition was that, the concern person had to show the transaction of at least one lakh cft. stones for every one year by the month of March which is to be continued for five years. After the period of agreement, the concerned lease holder could retain his position again for next five years by showing the performance of last five years

to the Government but indeed it totally depended upon the decision of the Government. The *challan* book was provided from the Land Revenue Office to the lease holder for tax collection including VAT (Value Added Tax) properly from each stone or sand loaded truck. The tax was collected by the royalty office under the supervision of lease holder. The lease holder was locally known as *ghat malik* who could appoint a number of staff in the Royalty Office for tax collection as well as to look after the whole matter.

The another matter was reported from the *sardars* of the stone crushing field that if the land of any person is engulfed by the river then the affected person might apply to the Land Revenue Office to get royalty permit for the said land but he had to go through this procedures only when he expressed his eagerness to use that land for the purpose of stone based economy. After getting acceptance he was provided the *challan* book from the Land Revenue Office to collect the tax properly with VAT from every stone or sand loaded truck. Besides this, the concerned person usually got Rs. 10/- to Rs. 20/- from each loaded truck only when the sand and stones were collected from his land.

The *ghat malik* was generally benefited from the *challan* book and the matter becomes clear more through an example, if Rs. 250/- is received from a truck through *challan* book then Rs. 200/- is to be submitted to the Government and the rest Rs. 50/- is considered as a profit for the *ghat malik*.

**Role of Royalty Office:** The *challan* book was provided to the *ghat malik* from Land Revenue Office for tax and VAT collection through royalty office. The total amount of stones, boulders and sand those were loaded in the trucks for the whole day could be calculated better from the *challan* book. Pursuant to *challan* book they could collect for a particular amount of stones and sand such as 300 cft., 250 cft., 200 cft., 150 cft. and 125 cft. The details information regarding the same are shown below –

**Table 5.7: Distribution of total Amount including Royalty Charge and VAT against the Amount of Stone and Sand**

Stone/Sand	Amount of stone or sand	Royalty charge	VAT (4%)	Total amount (in Rs.)
Stone	300 cft.	Rs. 436/-	Rs. 17.44/-	Rs. 453.44/-
Sand	300 cft.	Rs. 404/-	Rs. 16.16/-	Rs. 420.16/-
Stone	250 cft.	Rs. 363/-	Rs. 14.52/-	Rs. 377.52/-
Sand	250 cft.	Rs. 337/-	Rs. 13.48/-	Rs. 350.48/-
Stone	200 cft.	Rs. 290/-	Rs. 11.60/-	Rs. 301.6/-
Sand	200 cft.	Rs. 270/-	Rs. 10.80/-	Rs. 280.80/-
Stone	150 cft.	Rs. 220/-	Rs. 8.80/-	Rs. 228.80/-
Sand	150 cft.	Rs. 200/-	Rs. 8/-	Rs. 208/-
Stone	125 cft.	Rs. 180/-	Rs. 7.20/-	Rs. 187.20/-
Sand	125 cft.	Rs. 170/-	Rs. 6.80/-	Rs. 176.80/-

**The Role of Labour, Munsii, Sardar and Truck Owner:** The total work like stone collection and crushing, sifting, sand gathering and truck loading were performed by the labourers who were controlled by the *sardars*. A number of persons were appointed under a *sardar* to look after the works of the labourers locally known as *munsii*. *Sardars* played a vital role as mediator between labourers and truck owners to supply the stones and sand. The truck owners supplied it to the builders or contractors. The interesting matter was that the *sardar* and truck owner may be same person if he is the owner of truck and it was noticed there were so many *sardars* who had own truck.

**Mantheni System:** In the stone crushing field it can be noticed that some of the *sardars* used to sign in a contract with the truck owner especially with the Shaktiman and Tata owners, to use their trucks for transportation of stones and sand by paid Rs. 10,000/- per month for Shaktiman truck and Rs. 10,000/- to Rs. 12,000/- for Tata truck as per the agreement. But this system was not applicable for Punjab and Canter truck.

**Implements:** To do this work, different types of implements were used in the stone field which are discussed below –

- (i) *Knata*: It was made up of both iron and wood. The said implement was mainly used to move stones towards oneself during stone collection from waist level water.
- (ii) *Gaini*: This iron made implement was used to crush the *single* for making both types of *chipis*.
- (iii) *Matul*: The said implement was made up of both iron and wood. It was used to crush the boulder for making all types of *maitel*.



Figure 5.1: 1- *Knata*, 2- *Gaini*, 3- *Matul*

- (iv) *Thika*: The said implement was made up of iron and four rods were encircled through a ring. It was used during stone collection from the river. The said implement was locally known as '*thika*' which was kept stand on the river basement and on its top the *tukuri* was kept. People collected the stones from the river and then kept these in *tukuri*.



**Figure 5.2: *Thika***

- (v) Sieve: Two types of sieve could be noticed in the stone crushing field, which were locally known as *jharni* and *oelty*. The said implements were made up of both wood and iron wires. These were used to isolate the stones from sand. The *jharni* was used to isolate *bajri* and the *oelty* was used to isolate *single*.



**Figure 5.3: *Jharni***



**Figure 5.4:** *Oelty*

- (vi) *Belcha*: The said implement was made up of both iron and wood. It was used to uplift the stones and sand in the basket and trucks.



**Figure 5.5:** *Belcha*

- (vii) *KB box*: The said implement was made up of wood. It was square in shape with a length and breadth of 2 feet and had a depth of 1.5 feet. The said wooden box was used to measure the amount of stones and also used to load the stones to the trucks.



**Figure 5.6: *KB box***

- (viii) *Tukuri*: It was made up of bamboo split. The said implement was used to carry the stones and sand from one place to another and also used to measure the amount of stones. Two types of '*tukuri*' were used in the stone crushing field which could be classified on the basis of its size. One was normally 24'/24' in length and breadth and another was 22'/22' in length and breadth.



**Figure 5.7: *Tukuri***

**Measurement of Stones and Sand:** The stones and sand were generally measured as cft. which was accepted by all the persons involved in stone based occupation. Besides this, the *KB box* and *tukuri* were also used to measure the same. In this regard, 36 *KB* = 100 cft. whereas 1 *KB* = 2.77 cft. On the other hand, 70 *tukuri* (measures about 24'/24') = 170 cft. whereas 1 *tukuri* = 2.43 cft.; and 80 *tukuri* (measures about 22'/22') = 170 cft. whereas 1 *tukuri* = 2.12 cft. Such type of *tukuri* measured 24'/24' contained 2.43 cft. stones or sand at a time. On the contrary, the *tukuri* measured 22'/22' which had the capacity to contain 2.12 cft. stones or sand at a time.

The *tukuri* and *KB box* were not required to load the stones or sand in 'Shaktiman', 'Tata' and 'Canter' trucks as these trucks were generally measured with a measuring tape and then marked with a chalk which helped to know how much amount of stones or sand could be carried and pursuant to that the said amount of stones or sand were to be loaded up to the mark with the help of *belcha*. But in case of 'Punjab' truck, the stones were usually loaded with the help of *tukuri* or *KB box* and sand with *tukuri* only without any help of measuring tape. The *KB box* was not needed as such to measure the stones but *chipis*. On the contrary, the sand was usually measured with the help of *tukuri* only. It is necessary to mention here that the usages of *tukuri* or *KB box* were to be found frequently at the time of purchasing stones or sand from the labourers and these were sold to the *sardars* who supplied it to the truck owners through the above mentioned process.

### **Child Workers and their Occupational Profile**

In the studied area a large number of children were found to be involved in stone based work throughout the day to contribute to their family income.

**Table 5.8: Distribution of Child Workers on the basis of Religion**

Sex	Religion			Total
	Hindu	Muslim	Others	
Male	183 98.39	1 0.54	2 1.08	186 100.00
Female	187 97.91	4 2.09	-	191 100.00
Total	370 98.14	5 1.33	2 0.53	377 100.00

**Table 5.9: Distribution of Child Workers on the basis of Caste, Community, Ethnic Group**

Sex	Caste/Community/Ethnic group									
	Rajbanshi	Namashudra	Jugi	Kapali	Brahmin	Behari	Nepali	Muslim	Santal	Total
Male	175 94.09	2 1.08	2 1.08	3 1.61	-	1 0.54	-	1 0.54	2 1.08	186 100.00
Female	182 95.29	-	-	2 105	1 0.52	1 0.52	1 0.52	4 2.09	-	191 100.00
Total	357 94.69	2 0.53	2 0.53	5 1.33	1 0.27	2 0.53	1 0.27	5 1.33	2 0.53	377 100.00

The working children in the studied area can broadly be categorized pursuant to their religion. In the context of religion the data shows a major percentage of working children (98.14%) belonged to Hindu community. Meanwhile the tribe, Santal and the Muslims were numerically very poor. There were different castes, community and ethnic groups found to reside in close proximity in the studied area. Considering this fact a classification has been made to focus on the status of working children. In this connection Table 5.9 represents a classification of working children according to their caste, community, ethnic group which manifests around 95 per cent of working children in the studied area were belonged to Rajbanshi community.

**Table 5.10: Distribution of Child Workers on the basis of Age and Sex**

Age group (in years)	Male	Female	Total
5-6	20 51.28	19 48.72	39 100.00
7-8	31 43.06	41 56.94	72 100.00
9-10	42 46.15	49 53.85	91 100.00
11-12	47 52.81	42 47.19	89 100.00
13-14	46 53.49	40 46.51	86 100.00
Total	186 49.34	191 50.66	377 100.00

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13-14	46 53.49	40 46.51	86 100.00
Total	186 49.34	191 50.66	377 100.00

In the studied area a large number of children got involved in stone based work. The data reveals that total 377 children were found to work in the stone field and among them females were more (50.66%) than the males. However, highest number of working children was found in the age group of 9-10 years and it was lowest in the age group of 5-6 years. Moreover, it is the fact that from very early ages i.e. from 5 to 6 years many of the little children involved themselves into the stone based work for enhancing their family income.

**Table 5.11: Family Size and Employment Status of the Children**

Family size (no. of members)	No. of family with average no. of working children				
	1	2	3	4	Total
1	1 100.00	-	-	-	1 100.00
2	1 100.00	-	-	-	1 100.00
3	25 89.29	3 10.71	-	-	28 100.00
4	60 76.92	18 23.08	-	-	78 100.00
5	38 55.07	23 33.33	8 11.59	-	69 100.00
6	18 48.65	14 37.84	5 13.51	-	37 100.00
7	7 31.82	6 27.27	5 22.73	4 18.18	22 100.00
8	1 20.00	3 60.00	1 20.00	-	5 100.00
9 and above	2 22.22	5 55.56	1 11.11	1 11.11	9 100.00
Total	153 61.20	72 28.80	20 8.00	5 2.00	250 100.00

Table 5.11 represents the family size and employment status of children. In this field the data reveals that 153 (40.58%) child workers were found in 153 (61.20%) studied families while 144 (38.20%) child workers from 72 (28.80%) families means two working children from each family followed by 60 (15.92%) child workers from 20 (8.00%) families and 20 (5.30%) child workers from 5 (2.00%) families.

In the studied area it was common to notice that most of the child workers got involved in both stone crushing and stone collection activities. Their different types of work has been shown in the following table –

**Table 5.12: Distribution of Child Workers on the basis of Type of Work**

Sex	Type of work												Total
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
	Only stone crushing	Only stone collection	Both 1 & 2	Only sand gathering	Both 1 & 4	Both 2 & 4	Both 1, 2 & 4	Only truck loading	Both 1 & 8	Both 2 & 8	Both 4 & 8	Both 1, 2 & 8	
Male	67 36.02	1 0.54	90 48.39	1 0.54	1 0.54	-	2 1.08	3 1.61	14 7.53	1 0.54	1 0.54	5 2.69	186 100.00
Female	80 41.88	-	95 49.74	-	7 3.66	2 1.05	5 2.62	-	2 1.05	-	-	-	191 100.00
Total	147 38.99	1 0.26	185 49.07	1 0.26	8 2.12	2 0.53	7 1.86	3 0.80	16 4.24	1 0.26	1 0.26	5 1.33	377 100.00

The data reveals that around half (49.07%) of the working children did both stone crushing and stone collection activity whereas around 39 per cent of total working children were involved in stone crushing activity only. But the mentionable matter is that only very few of the males were involved in truck loading because they could not perform this type of activity as they were little and physically not able to do such type of hard labourious job (Table 5.12).

On the basis of nature of work, the child worker can be divided into three categories. The first category is that who worked individually; the second, who worked with their families; and third one is those who worked in a group. The details are given below –

**Table 5.13: Distribution of Child Workers on the basis of Nature of Working Involvement**

Age group (in years)	Nature of working involvement							
	Male				Female			
	Individual	With family	Group wise	Total	Individual	With family	Group wise	Total
6-May	-	20 100.00	-	20 100.00	-	17 89.47	2 10.53	19 100.00
8-Jul	-	31 100.00	-	31 100.00	-	35 85.37	6 14.63	41 100.00
10-Sep	1 2.38	36 85.71	5 11.90	42 100.00	-	44 89.80	5 10.20	49 100.00
12-Nov	1 2.13	41 87.23	5 10.64	47 100.00	-	35 83.33	7 16.67	42 100.00
13-14	5 10.87	19 41.30	22 47.83	46 100.00	1 2.50	28 70.00	11 27.50	40 100.00
Total	7 3.76	147 79.03	32 17.20	186 100.00	1 0.52	159 83.25	31 16.23	191 100.00

The noticeable matter was that a major percentage of working children worked with their families and this tendency was quite high among the female children. However, next they preferred to work in group (Table 5.13).

Generally there was no fixed working hour in the stone crushing occupation and it was common to notice that they worked for daylong as their remuneration depended on amount of work rather than time of work. The considerable fact was that if they worked more then they could earn more. Despite hard manual labour, they used to be paid very little remuneration that was simply inadequate for maintaining their livelihood. Therefore, they had to work together with children for the whole day to enhance their earnings for eking out a living with utmost difficulty.

**Table 5.14: Distribution of Child Workers' Parents on the basis of Working Hours in a day**

No. of parents	Working hours in a day					
	1-2	3-4	5-6	7-8	8 and above	Total
No. of father	-	1	10	121	98	230
No. of mother	2	12	48	151	33	246
Total	2	13	58	272	131	476

The data reveals that around 75 per cent of the mothers of working children worked for 7-8 hours or more than that; and in case of the fathers of working children it was around 95 per cent (Table 5.14).

The children also had to do the work and it can be classified on the basis of their working hours –

**Table 5.15: Distribution of Child Workers on the basis of Working Hours in a Day**

Sex	Working hours in a day					
	1-2	3-4	5-6	7-8	8 and above	Total
Male	4	30	70	54	28	186
	2.15	16.13	37.63	29.03	15.05	100.00
Female	4	28	79	65	15	191
	2.09	14.66	41.36	34.03	7.85	100.00
Total	8	58	149	119	43	377
	2.12	15.38	39.52	31.56	11.41	100.00

The working hours for the children were not so much less in comparison to their parents. The data shows that a greater section (82.49%) of the children had to work 5 and above hours in a day while around 43 per cent of the total working children used to do this work in a day for 7-8 hours or more than that (Table 5.15).

**Table 5.16: Distribution of Child Workers on the Basis of Work Experience**

Age group (in years)	Work experience of child workers (in years)										Total	
	≤1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10 and above		
5	10 100.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10 100.00
6	24 82.76	5 17.24	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	29 100.00
7	17 45.95	14 37.84	6 16.22	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	37 100.00
8	6 17.14	14 40.00	11 31.43	4 11.43	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	35 100.00
9	7 16.28	8 18.60	10 23.26	13 30.23	5 11.63	-	-	-	-	-	-	43 100.00
10	3 6.25	2 4.17	9 18.75	19 39.58	12 25.00	3 6.25	-	-	-	-	-	48 100.00
11	3 8.82	4 11.76	6 17.65	5 14.71	10 29.41	6 17.65	-	-	-	-	-	34 100.00
12	1 1.82	4 7.27	1 1.82	7 12.73	14 25.45	14 25.45	12 21.82	2 3.64	-	-	-	55 100.00
13	1 3.57	2 7.14	3 10.71	1 3.57	3 10.71	8 28.57	8 28.57	2 7.14	-	-	-	28 100.00
14	3 5.17	4 6.90	3 5.17	3 5.17	6 10.34	10 17.24	15 25.86	11 18.97	2 3.45	1 1.72	-	58 100.00
Total	75 19.89	57 15.12	49 13.00	52 13.79	50 13.26	41 10.88	35 9.28	15 3.98	2 0.53	1 0.27	-	377 100.00

It was the fact that more than 80 per cent of the children had been working in the stone field for more than 1 year while 38.20 per cent children had been working for 5 and above years. The interesting matter is that the children involved themselves in this work from very early i.e. from 5 years too. It was true that most of the children of the studied families were bound to do this work as it was essential for maintaining their livelihood as well as survival.

**Persons Who Motivated the Children to do the Work:** It was reported from the working children in the studied area that they were motivated by several persons to get involved in stone based work. The details are given below –

**Table 5.17: Distribution of Child Workers on the basis of Motivation for Working Involvement**

Sex	Person from whom they were motivated					
	Parents	Other elder persons of the family	Friends	Neighbour	Self	Total
Male	154	12	10	4	6	186
	82.80	6.45	5.38	2.15	3.23	100.00
Female	162	12	7	4	6	191
	84.82	6.28	3.66	2.09	3.14	100.00
Total	316	24	17	8	12	377
	83.82	6.37	4.51	2.12	3.18	100.00

It was know that most of them were motivated by their parents mainly. Apart from this the other family members, friends, and neighbours also took part for the same. Sometime due to local environment few were motivates to work by self also.

**Holidays:** Indeed, they could hardly seem to feel the holiday because their working involvement for the whole day without any adequate rest was common to observe in the stone crushing field. Every day was their working day. They used to be paid only on Tuesday as it was their weekly market day and due to this fact the Tuesday was their half working day. Generally after getting the payment they went to the weekly market locally known as 'Matigara hat' held at a specific place of Matigara which was around 4 km away from the studied village. They purchased their necessary vegetables, foods and so forth for a week. In fact, they had to work hard for day long because their physical labour only could provide a fold of rice. It was always in their mind that how much time could be spent for more work. Therefore, except emergent situation they never wanted to spend time for other purposes. Ultimately no such off day was found in a week for them.

**Collection of Payment:** The payment of the working children was collected by different persons that can be shown in the following table (Table 5.18) –

**Table 5.18: Collection of Payment of Child Workers**

Sex	Person received the payment of working children			
	By parents	By other elder persons of the family	By self	Total
Male	141 75.81	8 4.30	37 19.89	186 100.00
Female	161 84.29	9 4.71	21 10.99	191 100.00
Total	302 80.11	17 4.51	58 15.38	377 100.00

The payment paid to the working children was collected mostly by their parents and in this regard the data reveals that around 76 per cent of male and more than 84 per cent of female working children were paid through their parents. Apart from the parents, few elder members of the family of the working children were found to be collected the same. The noticeable matter was that certain section of the child workers also received their payment directly.

**Monthly Income:** They worked hard daylong. It is the fact that most of the child workers had to work on an average 5 and above hours. They worked various stone based works like stone and sand gathering, stone crushing and even truck loading also. However, after this daylong hard work how much did they earn, has been stated below –

**Table 5.19: Distribution of Child Workers by their Monthly Earnings**

Sex	Earnings per month (in Rs.)						Total
	≤100	101-200	201-300	301-400	401-500	501 and above	
Male	15 80.6	52 27.96	35 18.82	49 26.34	8 4.30	27 4.52	186 100.00
Female	15 7.85	54 28.27	26 13.61	75 39.27	8 4.19	13 6.81	191 100.00
Total	30 7.96	106 28.12	61 16.18	124 32.89	16 4.24	40 10.61	377 100.00

The data reveals that around 89 per cent of the working children could not earn more than Rs. 500/- in a month whereas a very little percentage of working children could earn more than that. Moreover, a very little remuneration was found to be paid notwithstanding their hard manual labour for the entire day. It was not satisfactory at all to the working children those who began to understand a bit.

The stone based occupation was the backbone of economy of the studied people. The studied people lived in Purba Rangia which is located on the Balasan River basin. This occupation includes various types of works such as stone collection, sand gathering, stone crushing and truck loading. With this occupation various categories of worker and department are attached such as labourer, *munsi*, *sardar*, truck owner and truck driver and helper, lease holder, and Land Revenue department of the government. The people who were attached with the stone collection and crushing, sand gathering and truck loading work were treated as labour. Both adult and children were attached with this work and without any monetary investment they could do the work. Apart from sand gathering, the concerned people primarily collected different types of stones and boulders from the river and then broke into different sizes and shapes and then sold it. Depends on its sizes its names and rates were varied. Along with the collection of sand and stones and stone crushing many of the people were also engaged in truck loading of sand and stones. The wage rate of the said work was varied and it depended on amount of production of stone crushing, sand collection and number of truck loading. These raw materials were needed for various construction works and these were sent to the various places for the said purposes. Moreover, to do this stone based work there were five categories of labourers. Apart from these, there were so many lease holders in Balasan River. According to Government rules, a person may become a lease holder of five acres river-land for the period of five years but the selection was made in a proper way. The Land Revenue Office provided the *challan* book to the lease holder for tax collection including VAT (Value Added Tax) properly from each stone or sand loaded truck. The tax was collected by the royalty office under the supervision of lease holder. On the basis of the amount of stones and sand the taxes were varied. The stones and sand were generally measured as cft. Apart from this, the *KB box* and *tukuri* were also used to measure the same. To do this work different types of implements were used in the stone field. In the studied area a large number of children got involved in stone based work especially in both stone crushing and stone collection activities for the whole day to contribute to their family earnings. On the basis of nature of work they were divided into three categories- worked individually; worked with their families; and worked in a group. But a major percentage of them worked with their families. In the stone field it was common to notice that they worked for daylong as their remuneration depended on amount of work. They were paid a very little remuneration in spite of hard manual labour for the whole day.