

CHAPTER IX

ECONOMIC TRENDS

LIVELIHOOD
PATTERN

The district consists of three subdivisions, namely, Khondmals, Baligurha and Boudh. The Khondmals and Baligurha subdivisions consist of a net-work of hills and forests, interspersed here and there with small villages with patches of cultivated land. The villages are scattered in the hills and are separated from each other by rugged peaks and dense forests. Between the high mountain ranges of Khondmals and the river Mahanadi lie the fertile plains of Boudh. The natural features of this tract lend themselves to irrigation, the hills on the southern border forming a natural watershed from which many small streams find their way to the Mahanadi. Of the three subdivisions, the plain areas of Boudh Tahsil are comparatively fertile and good for intensive cultivation.

About 84 per cent of the people of the district earn their livelihood primarily through agriculture and forest produce. The Kandhas, however, do not depend entirely on the produce of their fields for their food supply. They depend upon jungle products for about 3 months in a year. Collection of Kendu leaf is also one of the chief occupations of the tribals in the district for their subsistence.

According to the Census of 1951 there were 4,56,895 persons in the district of which 2,26,738 were males and 2,30,105 females. The Census of 1951 ascertained the "economic status" and the "means of livelihood" of persons. On the foregoing basis, people were divided into two broad livelihood categories, viz., the agricultural classes and the non-agricultural classes. In the district, there were 360,770 persons who belonged to the agricultural classes and 96,125 persons who belonged to the non-agricultural classes. Among the agricultural classes were included (a) cultivators of land wholly or mainly owned, and their dependants, (b) cultivators of land wholly or mainly unowned, and their dependants, (c) cultivating labourers and their dependants, and (d) non-cultivating owners of land agricultural rent receivers, and their dependants. The non-agricultural classes comprised persons including their dependants who derived their principal means of livelihood from (a) production other than cultivation, (b) commerce, (c) transport and (d) other services and miscellaneous sources.

The above eight livelihood classes were divided each into three sub-classes, namely, self-supporting persons, non-earning dependants, and earning dependants in order to indicate their economic status.

BOUDH-KHONDMALS

The following figures show the number of persons deriving their principal means of livelihood and their economic status as classified in the Census of 1951.

Livelihood classes and sub-classes	Self-supporting		Non-earning dependants		Earning dependants	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
AGRICULTURAL CLASSES	91,843	15,224	70,263	1,62,711	17,019	3,710
(a) Cultivators of land wholly or mainly owned; and their dependants	72,419	10,214	57,387	1,34,400	14,175	2,305
(b) Cultivators of land wholly or mainly unowned, and their dependants	3,720	536	3,110	6,630	836	260
(c) Cultivating labourers, and their dependants	15,424	4,330	9,462	20,963	1,965	1,125
(d) Non-cultivating owners of land, agricultural rent receivers; and their dependants	280	144	304	718	43	20
NON-AGRICULTURAL CLASSES	24,772	5,815	19,112	41,964	3,729	733
(a) Production (other than cultivation)	9,025	2,225	6,395	14,288	1,593	204
(b) Commerce	4,362	899	3,485	7,521	700	200
(c) Transport	133	11	130	212	24	16
(d) Other Services and miscellaneous sources	11,252	2,680	9,102	19,943	1412	313

During 1954-55 an economic sample survey* was undertaken for the rural population of the district in which the family was taken as a unit. The survey showed that 88.9 per cent were agricultural families. Of the agricultural families, 56.4 per cent belonged to the class of cultivators of land wholly owned, 1.6 per cent were cultivators of land unowned, 0.7 per cent were non-cultivating owners, 28.2 per cent were agricultural labourers, and 2.0 per cent did not come in any of these classes.

*. Economic Survey of Orissa, Vol. I., by Dr. Sadasiv Misra

The non-agricultural classes were divided into four main occupational-groups. Of the total non-agricultural families 0.5 per cent derived their major source of income by working as labourers, 4.8 per cent from trade, 2.2 per cent from production other than cultivation and 2.8 per cent from service and other professions. In comparison with the occupational figures of the Census of 1951 this survey indicated, more or less, the same number of persons engaged in different occupations.

In 1961, there were 290,151 workers in the district which constituted 56.40 per cent of the total population. Besides, there were 224,276 persons treated as non-workers. Of the total working population 186,246 persons were engaged as cultivators and 38,749 as agricultural labourers. Besides, 3,662 persons were engaged in mining and quarrying, 16,656 persons in household industry, 345 persons in manufacturing other than household industry, 402 persons in construction work, and 4,138 persons in trade and commerce. In transport, storage and communication 257 persons were engaged. There were 39,696 persons who followed other avocations not enumerated above.

The total number of workers in 1971 was 2,19,392 which constituted 35.29 per cent of the total population. The male and female workers respectively accounted for 59.67 and 10.99 per cent of the total male and female population. In 1961 the total number of workers made up 56.40 per cent of the total population and the male and female workers respectively constituted 64.54 and 48.35 per cent of the corresponding total population.

In the total working population, cultivators, agricultural labourers and other residual workers respectively accounted for 55.16, 28.95 and 15.89 per cent in 1971. The corresponding figures for 1961 were 64.19, 13.35 and 22.46 per cent. The reason for the sharp decline in the participation rates except among females could partly be attributed to the change in the definition of workers adopted for 1971 Census as compared to that of 1961. According to 1971 definition, a man or woman who was engaged primarily in household duties or a student attending an institution, even if such a person helped in the family economic activity but not as full-time worker, should not be treated as a worker for the main activity. Application of this test might have resulted in non-inclusion, particularly in the rural areas, of a large number of house-wives and students as workers in 1971 Census although they would have been classified as such in 1961.

The following table shows the number of workers according to the categories of workers as classified in the Census of 1971.

Categories of workers	Males	Females
1	2	3
Cultivators ..	110,065	10,955
Agricultural Labourers ..	46,188	17,315
Livestock, forestry, fishing, hunting, and plantations, orchards and allied activities	2,743	357
Mining and quarrying ..	114	7
Manufacturing, processing, servicing and repairs :		
(a) Household Industry ..	5,727	2,233
(b) Other than household Industry ..	871	215
Constructions ..	814	80
Trade and Commerce ..	4,520	638
Transport, storage and communications	880	39
Other services ..	13,217	2,414
Non-workers ..	125,094	277,189

THE GENERAL
LEVEL OF
PRICES

Food grains are the cheapest immediately after harvest and dearest immediately before harvest. Prices are also higher or lower according to the nature of the harvest. Besides, if population increases, as has been happening, and production of food grains does not keep pace with it, prices must rise, obviously because the same food has more mouths to feed. Generally, the price of rice is higher in the Khondmals owing to the fact that the areas available for rice cultivation are comparatively small and barren.

Pre-Independence
Period

In the Khondmals, during the period 1891-95, the price of common rice, wheat and gram was 18.662 kg., 7.815 kg. and 13.995 kg. per rupee respectively. During the period 1896-1900, the price of common rice and wheat went higher. During this period, common rice, wheat and gram were available at 14.696 kg., 7.348 kg. and 14.346 kg. per rupee respectively. However, in the beginning of the 20th century rice and food grains were cheap, and when the price of common rice rose to 15.688 kg. per rupee, prices were held to be high.

During the decade from 1893 to 1902 in the ex-State of Boudh the average price of wheat, rice and salt was 11.897 kg., 24.027 kg. and 6.765 kg., per rupee respectively, showing a tendency to rise. The price level continued to rise gradually and in 1921 the maximum and the minimum price of rice was 15.396 kg. and 7.698 kg., per rupee respectively. In the next year there was a bumper harvest and the price of food grains decreased. The maximum and the minimum price of rice was 17.962 kg. and 15.396 kg., per rupee respectively. In 1923, the amount of rain which fell during the year was much below the average and considerably less than that of the year before. Consequently production of paddy decreased and the maximum and the minimum price of rice was 16.562 kg. and 8.864 kg., per rupee respectively. In 1924, the price of rice rose still higher due to low production and the maximum and the minimum price of rice was 12.363 kg. and 7.931 kg., per rupee respectively. In the next year, the price of rice decreased a little. In 1926, there was a general improvement in the price of rice over those in the preceeding years. The maximum and the minimum price of rice was 18.622 kg. and 12.130 kg., per rupee respectively. This price level was maintained for a period of three years with slight fluctuations. Then came the serious slump when the price of rice dropped considerably.

In 1942, there was a phenomenal rise in the prices of agricultural produce resulting from the activities of the speculators on account of the Second World War. The maximum and the minimum quantity of rice available per rupee was 9.130 kg. and 6.790 kg. respectively. It was expected that with the end of the war the general food situation would ease. But, it did not, and the price level continued to rise gradually without any prospect of recession. In 1944-45 and 1945-46 the price of common rice and fine rice was 4.816 kg. and 3.571 kg., and 5.238 kg. and 4.205 kg. per rupee respectively.

In the Post-Independence period there has been a phenomenal rise in the price of agricultural produce. In the Kharif year 1947-48, common rice and fine rice were available at 3.281 kg. and 3.078 kg., per rupee respectively during the harvest time. In 1954-55 the harvest price of rice, wheat, ragi, maize, grams, rape and mustard, jute, tobacco and sugarcane was 3.110 kg., 3.110 kg., 3.110 kg., 11.962 kg., 3.732 kg., 2.488 kg., 3.732 kg., 0.466 kg., and 3.732 kg., per rupee respectively. This trend of the price level was maintained with slight fluctuations, up to 1956 after which there was a marked rise in the price of food grains. In 1957, rice, black gram, green gram, Kulthi, mustard, groundnut, turmeric, chilly (dry), and gingelly were sold at 2.3 kg., 1.6 kg., 1.8 kg., 3.2 kg., 1.2 kg., 2.0 kg., 2.1 kg., 0.481 kg. and 1.4 kg., per rupee respectively. During the four years, 1958 to 1961, the price of

Post-Independence
Period

all the food grains remained, more or less, constant. In 1962, there was an abnormal rise in the price of food grains excepting black grams, and rice, black gram, Kulthi, bunt and Arhar were sold at 1.5 kg., 1.6 kg., 2.6 kg., 1.026 kg., and 1.091 kg., per rupee respectively. In the next year, the retail price of rice, wheat, ragi, green gram, black gram, and Arhar rose still higher and were available at 1.3 kg., 1.4 kg., 4.6 kg., 1.3 kg., 1.5 kg., and 1.0 kg., per rupee respectively. Towards 1968 the price level rose still higher and turmeric, Arhar, mustard, Palua (Indian arrowroot- *Curcuma zeodharia*), ginger, Jhudunga, resin, black gram, tamarind and Mandia were available at 0.416 kg., 0.454 kg., 0.555 kg., 0.200 kg., 0.571 kg., 1.250 kg., 0.333 kg., 1 kg., 3.333 kg., and 2 kg., per rupee respectively. The hill broom for which the district is famous cost Re. 0.10 per piece. In the next year the price level rose still upward and reached a high level in 1973. In 1973 rice, green gram, black gram, niger, turmeric, mustard, ginger, Jhudunga, resin, tamarind and Mandia were available at 0.416 kg., 0.250 kg., 0.250 kg., 0.333 kg., 0.235 kg., 0.357 kg., 0.400 kg., 0.476 kg., 0.099 kg., 0.833 kg., and 1.111 kg., per rupee respectively. In July, 1974 the price level of food grains, oils, vegetables and miscellaneous goods rose steeply and the retail price of rice, wheat, green gram, black gram, horse gram (Kulthi), bunt, coconut oil, mustard oil, groundnut oil, brinjal, potato, pumpkin, papaya, colocasia (Saru), onion and chilly (dry) was Rs. 1.65, Rs. 1.42, Rs. 2.80, Rs. 2.50, Rs. 1.70 Rs. 3.00, Rs. 18.00, Rs. 12.00, Rs. 10.00, Rs. 1.20, Rs. 1.50, Re. 0.80, Re. 0.50 Re. 1.00, Re. 1.00 and Rs. 7.00 per kilogram respectively. In December 1975, at Boudh, Phulabani and Tikabali common rice was available at Rs. 1.33, Rs. 1.70, and Rs. 1.55 per kilogram respectively. Green gram, black gram, horse gram, and Bunt were available in the district at Rs. 2.49, Rs. 2.10, Rs. 1.20, and Rs. 2.60 per kilogram respectively. In March, 1976, the price of rice, wheat, black gram, green gram, turmeric, Palua, resin, tamarind and potato was Rs. 1.90 Rs. 1.50, Rs. 2.07, Rs. 2.00, Rs. 2.50, Rs. 8.00, Rs. 11.00, Rs. 1.50, and Re. 0.90 per kilogram respectively. In 1977, the price of rice, black gram, turmeric, Palua, resin, mustard and Mandia rose upward and was available at Rs. 2.00, Rs. 2.55, Rs. 3.10, Rs. 9.50, Rs. 12.00, Rs. 3.25, Rs. 1.25 and Rs. 1.20 per kilogram respectively.

**THE GENERAL
LEVEL OF
WAGES**

A major portion of the working class people of the district derive their chief source of livelihood by earning wages in farm and non-farm occupations. But it is rather arbitrary to draw a water-tight division between them since many of the labourers engage themselves in farm work and non-farm work at different times in the year. Agriculture being seasonal in character, this is a normal feature of the rural economy. For a considerable part of the year the rural labourers do not find any employment. As such, the daily wages they earn

don't give proper indication of their real income. In the district the system of payment of wages is also largely primitive in character. In many places wages are paid in kind in terms of paddy and other grains. If such wages remain unchanged on account of tradition, inspite of the rise in prices, it would be beneficial to the worker. Over very short period, wages in kind do remain unchanged, but since the Second World War with the rise in prices wage rates in kind have also been frequently revised.

In the beginning of the 20th century labour was almost entirely paid for in kind and practically the only skilled labourers were artisans, such as, masons, blacksmiths and carpenters, brought from Cuttack, Bhanjanagar, Berhampur and other places. A common mason earned a daily wage of Re. 0.31 to Re. 0.44 while a blacksmith got Re. 0.19 and a carpenter Re. 0.19 to Re. 0.44. Superior masons and carpenters were paid Re. 0.50 a day. Local labourers were paid Re. 0.12 to Re. 0.19 per day if employed by contractors and were paid in food and grain if employed in field work by cultivators. Village artisans, such as, blacksmiths who prepared and repaired plough-shares and other agricultural implements were allotted service lands and also, in many places, got an allowance of rice and other grain at harvest time. Washermen, barbers and sweepers were also allotted service lands and got in many places an allowance of rice and other grains at harvest time. This allowance was generally 9.330 kg. of paddy per plough in the case of blacksmiths. Adult barbers and washermen also got the same amount from each of their clients.

Pre-Independence
Period

Field labourers were divided into two classes: *mulias* and *halias*. *Mulias* were day labourers paid almost invariably in kind, and *halias* were farm servants employed permanently by well-to-do cultivators. The *halias* were given a monthly allowance of 56 kg. of rice and at harvest time 5.6 quintals of rice, 2 pieces of cloth and a rupee in cash, which represented a yearly wage of about Rs. 30. On the whole, the *halias* were better off than the day labourers who got little employment from February to May, except in repairing houses, etc. During these months they had to subsist on their own little crops, on wild roots and fruits, by cutting and selling bamboos and fuel and by making and selling mats, baskets, etc.

The above wage level remained stationary for a long time. In 1914 there was a good demand for labour and the labouring classes had no difficulty in finding employment. The daily wages of the skilled labourers ranged from Re. 0.37 to Re. 0.56 and that of the unskilled labourers from Re. 0.12 to Re. 0.19. In 1924 the labouring

classes found easy employment in the neighbouring British administered districts and were well off. This temporary emigration helped to enlarge the experience and outlook of the local workers to some extent. In 1940, forced labour or Bethi system was abolished in the ex-State of Boudh. This progressive measure was a source of great relief to the poor people. Since the Second World War, with the rise in prices wage level was also increasing. The labourers who went outside the district generally earned good wages.

Post-Independence
Period

An economic sample survey was conducted during the period—October, 1954 to September, 1956, by the Government of Orissa in which the family was taken as a unit. It was observed that in the rural economy a large portion of the families derived their chief source of livelihood by earning wages in farm and non-farm occupations. According to this survey 88.9 per cent of the families in the district belonged to the agricultural classes of which 28.2 per cent were agricultural labourers, and 10.3 per cent of the families belonged to the non-agricultural classes of which 0.5 per cent were non-agricultural labourers. Thus about one-fourth of the total number of families of the district constituted the labouring class. As regards their mode of employment, 87.27 per cent were employed as daily labourers. Labourers engaged on annual term constituted 12.72 per cent. A labourer, on the average, got work for 176 days a year.

It is a well-known fact that agricultural labour constitutes the lowest income group in the community. In 1954 the average daily wage of a male labourer was Re. 0.75. Women and children comparatively got lesser wages. When a male labourer paid in terms of kind he got 3.2 kg. of paddy per day. This wage level continued for a short time after which it rose. In 1958 the skilled labourers, such as carpenter, cobbler and blacksmith got Rs. 3.25, Rs. 2.83 and Rs. 2.70 per day respectively. Among agricultural labourers men, women and children got Re. 0.95, Re. 0.61 and Re. 0.43 per day respectively. Other agricultural labourers, such as, those who water fields, carry loads, dig wells, etc. were paid at Re. 0.95 per day. A herdsman whose work is grazing the cattle got Re. 0.94 per day. In 1961, the wages of the field labourers were enhanced further and the male labourers got Rs. 1.25, women Re. 0.79 and children Re. 0.44 per day. Other agricultural labourers got less wages than that of the field labourers and men, women and children got Re. 1.00, Re. 0.62 and Re. 0.37 per day respectively. A herdsman got Re. 0.83 per day. In between 1962 to 1966 the wage level remained, more or less, constant with a little fluctuation. Since 1967 there was a marked rise in the wage level of both the skilled and the unskilled labourers and they were paid at the rate of Rs. 5.00 and Rs. 2.00 per day respectively. In 1971 the wage level rose further and

masons, carpenters and blacksmiths got Rs. 6.00 per day. Male labourers got Rs. 3.00 and women Rs. 2.50 per day. In the next year, the wage level remained steady. In 1974, the wage level rose steeply with the rise in prices, and skilled labourers received Rs. 8.00 per day. Field labourers and other agricultural labourers got at the rate of Rs. 3.50 per day. In notification No. 21877 LEH, dated the 26th December, 1975, the Government of Orissa fixed the minimum wages payable to all categories of agricultural labourers at the rate of Rs. 4.00 per day. This notification came into force from the 1st January 1976 and wages are being paid accordingly.

The *halias* usually get 1.5 quintals of paddy, 3 pieces of cloth and one winter cloth annually. Besides, they get one kilogram of rice per day.

The district is mainly agricultural. This is so, not because agriculture is well developed in the district but due to the fact that opportunities for gainful employment outside agriculture are extremely limited. The district is in a high rainfall zone but several areas are constantly drought-prone due to uneven distribution of rainfall and the hilly terrain. Boudh Tahsil is agriculturally prosperous for the availability of canal water for irrigation from the Salki Medium Irrigation Project, the only medium irrigation project in the district. Agriculture in other Tahsils has remained undeveloped due to lack of irrigation facility. Cultivation of land is confined mostly to one season, i. e., the rainy season, and farm output is also low. Shifting cultivation is prevalent among the Scheduled Tribes, and the Scheduled Castes people. In recent years, the impact of urban life, the developmental measures undertaken by the Government, modern means of communication, etc., have brought considerable improvement in the standard of living of the people.

Standard of
Living

Most of the people depended on agriculture and forest produce. But they were usually poor and in debt. Thrift and economy were but little practised, and the desire for accumulation of money was chiefly conspicuous by its absence. The bulk of the population had not even the means of clothing themselves properly. Although the climate was in their favour for greater part of the year, yet during the colder months they suffered a great deal. The cottages were usually mud huts with a thatched roof. The ordinary people had usually three meals a day, but if very poor they had to satisfy themselves with two. A porridge or gruel made of Mandia (Ragi) called *jau* (ଜାଉ) was the food of the masses. Fish was eaten by certain classes when procurable and there was a considerable trade with the Kandhas who were very fond of salt fish. The rich class women wore gold ornaments in their arms, ears, nose and neck. But the low class women wore heavy and coarse brass bangles, anklets, armllets, ear-rings, nose-rings, etc.

Pre-Independence
Period

The hilly areas were inhabited chiefly by the Kandhas. The Kandhas were physically fit to undergo severe exertions. The men went about armed with Tangi, a sort of battle-axe, the handle of which was covered in many parts with brass wire for protection and ornament. Their favourite amusement was hunting which they pursued with an indefatigable ardour. The dress of the Kandha was simple. It usually consisted of a piece of coarse cloth worn round the loin. The head-dress was more elaborate. The hair was worn very long and drawn out in the fashion of a horn, inside which they usually placed their comb, pipe and other little domestic requisites. The women wore a skirt reaching a little below the knees. Nothing was worn over the bosom except ornaments. Like the men, the women invariably wore a small comb in the hair, and the younger women sometimes had five or six of them.

Their ordinary food consisted of rice, or other dry grains boiled into a kind of porridge. They ate mango and used the pounded kernel as a sort of flour. They ate numberless jungle roots, sweet potatoes, yams, and Mohwa flowers. Those who did not convert the Mohwa flowers into spirit stored and ate them dry. Wild game was eaten freely when procurable, but domestic animals were reserved for special occasions. Tobacco was regarded by them as one of the most necessary articles of existence, and they were all habitual smokers. They did not drink milk, although they had herds of goats and buffaloes. The men were great drinkers and they had ample means to indulge in it, as the 'Solapa' or Sago palm which gave toddy or fermented juice for six months up to the rains, were plentiful. Mohwa flowers from which a strong spirit was distilled were also available in abundance. They were very fond of dancing. In every Kandha village there was a house called "Dhangada Ghar" where the young men and maidens met.

In the early part of the 20th century, on the whole, the people of the district advanced in prosperity and the country was slowly opened out. The schools, including the schools in the hilly areas, were doing good work. The attendance in the schools of the hilly areas was comparatively small. L. E. B. Cobden Ramsay, writing in the early part of the 20th century, said "The Khonds are giving up their primitive customs and beliefs and endeavouring to amalgamate with their Hindu neighbours. The Khonds of Boud are for the most part those members of the tribe who have for many generations back deserted their highland homes and settled down in the plains: They have taken to regular plough cultivation, but still supplement this by raising cash crops on the hill sides, where they cut and burn the light forest. The distinction between the Khond of the plains and

of the highlands is very marked and real and is particularly noticeable in the neighbouring State of Kalahandi where there is a large population of Khonds. The Khonds of the plains have given up their own language which they now scarcely understand and amongst themselves talk Oriya: They do not eat, drink or intermarry with the Khonds of the hills: the distinction is locally well recognised.”¹

He further observed that the people of the ex-State of Boudh for the most part were very backward, poor and improvident. The villages along the Mahanadi were an exception and many of them were large substantial villages with very prosperous inhabitants. The land was fertile and paddy was extensively grown in the open country along the Mahanadi. Castor oil, *arhar* and gram were the other main crops and turmeric was also grown in the hills on the southern border. In ordinary years the produce of rice, foodgrains and oilseeds was in excess of requirements and a considerable trade was carried on by traders. In 1908, in the Angul Gazetteer, L. S. S. O' Malley wrote, "On the whole, it is reported, the cultivators both in Angul and the Khondmals may be regarded as prosperous and fairly comfortable, but the labouring classes are scantily clad, meagrely fed, and of poor physique. At the same time, it must be remembered that their needs are very few, and they are not entirely dependent on the produce of the fields for their food-supply. This is particularly the case in the Khondmals, where the Khonds and Pans in the best seasons, live almost entirely on jungle products, such as, herbs, roots and fruits, for at least three months in the year. This dietary is not restricted to those who have no other food, but prevails even among men who have several hundred rupees worth of grain stored in their houses, half a *tambi*, i.e., $\frac{3}{4}$ seer of rice, mixed with herbs (*sag*) and other jungle products, furnishes a meal for two or three persons, and this is the meal indulged in for three or four months in the year even by persons who are well off. At other times also jungle products form no unimportant part of the food of the people. In fact, they are used more or less throughout the year, but while the produce of the fields is largely depended upon from September to March, mixed with a small proportion of jungle products, the reverse is the case during the remaining months of the year, when the latter are largely consumed with a small mixture of the produce of the fields. The Khonds, moreover, supplement their food with game, especially different species of deer; many birds are caught for food, and rats and mice are considered delicious. No part of an animal is wasted, and when a *sambar* rewards the sportsman's skill, even the intestines

1. Feudatory States of Orissa, p. 137.

and skin are eaten, nothing being left but horns, hoofs and bones. So long as the Khonds have anything to eat, they do not work. For about four months in the year, viz., from January to April, they pass their time in singing, dancing and drinking, and when their stores of food grains run short, they go into the jungle in search of game and natural products. They are a thriftless class, content if they have enough for their present requirements, with but little or no thought for the future. This thriftlessness is probably due to the ease with which they can satisfy their wants, which are indeed few, they are accustomed to live on natural products, and they know that they are easily obtainable if their labour fails."

During the period 1891-1900, in the district there was repeated scarcity of food grains which resulted in high mortality. Due to the great famine in 1899 known as 'Chhapansal' famine there were great loss in Khondmals and Baligurha subdivisions. In the next decade (1901-1910) there were poor harvests in 1902 and 1903 and again in 1907 and 1908 when even mango and Mohwa crops in Khondmals and Baligurha subdivisions failed resulting in serious distress to the people belonging to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. But Boudh subdivision was passing through a very good period particularly in agricultural matters. Between 1911-20, there were repeated failure of crops leading to a famine in 1919 in the southern part of the district. There was high mortality among the infants which was ascribed to the prevalence of venereal diseases.

The district recovered quickly between the years 1921-30 and public health was also improved. There were scarcities of food in some years and in 1924 an area of 282,2991 sq. km. in Chakkapad Khandam of G. Udayagiri Tahsil suffered heavily. Test work was started and relief was given in extensive scale.

During the period 1931-40 the district had no bumper crop and depended mostly on the import of food stuffs from other districts of the State. The position in Boudh subdivision was a little better than in the other two subdivisions. Khondmals subdivision passed through a period of scarcity in 1935 when Taccavi loan was given liberally. There was a large scale emigration to Assam.

During the period 1941 to 1946 the general condition of the district was worse than the previous period. Deficiency in food stuff continued and there was marked deterioration in public health. This was ascribed to the fact that the people were suffering from under-nutrition. The adverse circumstances under which the people of the district were practically unable to grow was a matter of concern for the Government.

The period 1951-60 was significant for its planned development of rural economy. Five Year Plans were introduced which contributed to the overall prosperity of the people. Special schemes for the tribal people were introduced through National Extension Service Blocks. As irrigation facility was not available, much progress in agriculture was not achieved. Anyway, food was not scarce and general improvement in public health was noticed as the death rate on account of agency fevers came down. Out of the fifteen Community Development Blocks in the district, ten were opened during this period. Adoption of improved methods of agriculture, supply of fertilisers, pesticides etc., opening of new dispensaries, supply of drinking water in rural areas, programmes to control and prevent epidemic diseases, construction of road communication, spread of education, etc., contributed substantially to the material progress of the people. This decade was comparatively free from natural calamities like flood, drought and epidemics. The economic prosperity and good harvests had thus resulted in the economic growth of rural economy.

The economic survey of 1954-55 indicates that about 97.7 per cent of the tribal families were dependant on agriculture for livelihood. About 56.4 per cent of the agricultural families were owner-cultivators and 28.2 per cent were agricultural labourers. Besides, the *per capita* supply of agricultural land in the district was the lowest among all the districts in the State which indicates the poor condition of the agricultural economy. The data reveal that in 1954-55 the average level of income per farming family was Rs.253.06 per year. Next to the farming families in numerical importance were the households who depend primarily, and many of them wholly, on wages by working in farm or in non-farm occupations. Their annual income per family was Rs.103.87. The data reveal that the net income from the rural trade was Rs.189.41 on the average per trading establishment. The level of income of the barbers, washermen and priests was exceedingly low which indicates that the families pursuing these avocations belonged to the low-income group.

A family budget enquiry was conducted in 1960. The design of the survey was one of the stratified systematic sampling. For the purpose of this survey the districts, viz., Boudh-Khondmals, Kalahandi, Koraput, and the Agency areas of Ganjam were grouped under one region. The data reveal that cereals claimed the highest percentage of total consumption in both rural and urban areas. Milk and milk-products claimed a lower proportion in rural areas than in the urban areas. Both in the rural and the urban areas people spent a lot on other food items. On non-food items the urban people spent more than the rural people in general.

The above consumption pattern holds good till now and as one would expect cereal consumption in the rural areas is primarily in non-cash terms while in the urban areas it is in cash-terms. This clearly shows that urban people buy most of their cereal requirements while rural people depend on home-grown stock or that obtained in exchange of goods and services. As regards milk and milk-products, more or less, an even distribution is prevalent between cash and non-cash consumption in the rural areas, while in the urban areas cash consumption constitutes the main factor. The trend with regards to cash and non-cash consumption of other food items is in the same direction as that of milk and milk-products for both rural and urban areas. In respect of fuel, light and intoxicants, non-cash consumption is very insignificant in the urban areas. For amusements, toilets, clothes and sundry goods the entire consumption is in cash terms. For miscellaneous goods and services, and durable and semi-durable goods cash consumption both in rural and urban areas is of overwhelming proportion. So, one may conclude by saying that in respect of food-items rural people depend more on home-grown stock than their counterparts in the urban areas while for the non-food items dependence on market is almost parallel. In other words, urban people depend on the market for almost everything they use, while rural people purchase a few items only. The increase in the prices of various articles of daily consumption has hit hard the urban people.

The urban area presents a picture of all the socially significant sections of the people from the unskilled labourer to the well-to-do and the rich. The collision of urban life and the modern means of communication have some impact on the food habits and luxuries of the rural people. Beverage like tea has become common even in village homes. Many fashionable articles have made their way into the semi-rural areas. Shops selling varieties of goods have now appeared in almost all big villages. Model houses, and low-cost houses for the weaker section of the community are built by the Government. The standard of living of the people is gradually improving due to adoption of improved agricultural techniques, modern means of communication and, above all, general consciousness created through the agency of Community Development Blocks. The Savings Bank facility and availability of Small Savings Certificates in post offices are inducing many people to keep up their savings in Pass Books and National Savings Certificates. During 1974-75, 1976-77 and 1977-78, the district had achieved the credit of securing the first position in the State in collecting the highest percentage of net collection in the small savings schemes.

However, the economic condition of most of the people belonging to the Scheduled Tribes and the Scheduled Castes is very poor. They

are mostly the Kandhas and the Panas. Often they become the victims of Sahukars and unscrupulous traders who exploit them taking advantage of their poverty, simplicity and ignorance. However, there is one marketing co-operative society at Tikabali which ensures fair price to the Adivasis.

The spread of Christianity among the Kandhas does not necessarily bring any perceptible change in their economic life. It has contributed to some extent to their social and educational advancement.

The Kandhas are usually very homesick and do not even show any interest to settle in the tribal colonies established by the Community Development Blocks. The lure of better employment has, however, induced some of them to migrate to the urban areas. Bhubaneswar, the capital city of the State, has now a sizable population of the Kandhas who are employed mostly as rickshaw pullers and day labourers. Some of them also work as low-paid employees in government or private organisations. Some Kandhas live at Bhubaneswar with their families, the women-folk being mostly engaged in household work or work as day labourers.

Nine out of the fifteen Community Development Blocks have been declared as Tribal Development Blocks where special tribal welfare measures are being undertaken. Three out of the four Tahsils, viz., Khondmals, Baligurha and G. Udayagiri have been declared as 'Scheduled Area' for protecting the economic interest of the Adivasis. The Government of India as well as the Government of Orissa through various agencies, such as, the Tribal Development Agency, the Integrated Tribal Development Projects, and the Drought Prone Area Programme Agency are endeavouring to upgrade the economic and social status of these people.

The jurisdiction of the District Employment Exchange covers the entire district. The scope of employment in the private sector is extremely limited. There is no large-scale or medium size industry either in public or private sector as a consequence of which job opportunities are found almost entirely in Government offices. There are a few small-scale industries where some people are employed.

GENERAL
LEVEL OF
EMPLOYMENT
IN DIFFERENT
OCCUPATIONS

The District Employment Exchange was started at the district headquarters, Phulabani, on the 23rd March, 1960. Prior to it the District Employment Exchange, Berhampur, had its jurisdiction over this district. Under the District Employment Exchange, Phulabani, there are two Employment sub-offices located at Boudh and Baligurha. Besides, there is a Rural Employment Bureau at G. Udayagiri to disseminate employment information.

Employment
Exchange

BOUDH-KHONDMALS

As regards the mode of employment seekers, generally graduates in Arts and Science, under-graduates, matriculates and unskilled workers registered their names in the Employment Exchange. The following table shows the number of registration, placement, submission, vacancy, employers using the exchange and the position of the Live Register for the years 1968 to 1977 in the district.

	Years										
	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Registration ..	3,113	2,624	2,781	4,234	4,346	4,376	4,577	5,371	5,174	4,173	
Placement ..	146	212	267	567	716	384	520	1,455	676	347	
Submission ..	2,338	2,827	3,793	6,509	5,141	7,302	4,373	4,066	11,225	6,742	
Vacancy ..	202	459	604	1,146	643	848	1,418	1,086	840	600	
Employers using the exchange	58	89	104	149	115	161	146	126	170	131	
Position of the Live Register	2,369	2,203	2,895	3,589	3,969	3,931	4,819	4,263	6,071	6,191	

**Employment
Market
Information**

The Employment Exchange, Phulabani, collects information from the employers in the public sector and those employing 25 persons and above in the private sector in the prescribed *pro forma* with a view to collect and collate man-power statistics. In 1968, there were 7551 males and 518 females employed in public and private establishments. Gradually the position has improved and in 1977 there were 11,088 males and 664 females employed in public and private establishments. The following table shows the employment position in the district during the years 1968 to 1977.

Year	Male	Female	Total
1968	7,551	518	8,069
1969	8,406	532	8,938
1970	8,262	555	8,817
1971	9,840	539	10,379
1972	10,067	506	10,573
1973	11,521	517	12,038
1974	10,499	529	11,028
1975	11,186	570	11,756
1976	9,602	607	10,209
1977	11,088	664	11,752

The Vocational Guidance Unit is functioning under the charge of a trained officer in vocational guidance.

**Vocational
Guidance**

In 1977, 1493 individuals received information regarding jobs 106 applicants received individual guidance and 1432 applicants received guidance at the time of registration. During the year, 95 group discussions were conducted in which 304 persons attended. Applications of 641 persons were forwarded to different organisations for training out of which 93 persons were placed in different organisations for training.

The Community Development Programme was introduced in the district with the inauguration of the Community Development Block at Boudh on the 1st April, 1954. The district has been divided into 15 Community Development Blocks. According to the Census of 1971 the total population of the Community Development Blocks was 602,107.

**COMMUNITY
DEVELOP-
MENT**

A list of the Community Development Blocks with their date of inception, number of villages and Grama Panchayats has been given in Appendix I of this Chapter.

The achievements of the Community Development Blocks in the district are narrated below.

During the period, 1st July, 1975 to the 30th June, 1976, 2,49,215.55 hectares of land were sown for food and non-food crops. During the period, April 1975 to March 1976, improved seeds of paddy 5,12,589 kg., wheat 17,596 kg., Jowar 1,136 kg., maize 6,911 kg., ragi 28,762 kg., pulses 7,888 kg., cotton 2,956 kg., oil-seeds 10,500 kg., and vegetable seeds 2,032 kg., were distributed. Fertilisers, such as Calcium Ammonium Nitrate 915.120 tonnes, Super Phosphate 1690.190 tonnes and Ammonium Phosphate 133.870 tonnes were distributed. During this period 5,013 kg. of green manure seeds were distributed. Chemical pesticides, liquid 733 litres and powder 4,207 kilogrammes, were distributed. Fruit trees of 18,136 number were transplanted and 63,377 number of compost pits were filled. There were 4 seed multiplication farms and 56 private workshops for manufacturing agricultural implements.

Agriculture

In 1975-76, there were 19 veterinary dispensaries, 57 stockman centres, 6 artificial insemination centres, one dairy farm, 2 goat farms and 2 piggery farms in the Community Development Blocks.

**Animal
Husbandry
and Veteri-
nary**

In 1975-76, there were 20 dispensaries, 15 Primary Health Centres, 44 Maternity and Child Welfare Centres and 37 Family Planning Centres. Besides, there were 3 training centres for Dhais.

**Health and
Rural
Sanitation**

Education

In 1975-76, there were 1499 Primary schools and 148 Sevashrams. Out of the total Sevashrams 8 were residential schools. Besides, there were 120 Middle English schools and 6 Ashram schools of Middle English standard. There were 29 High English schools and 7 Ashram schools of High English school standard. In these schools 50,525 boys and 26,519 girls were enrolled of which 31,382 boys and 14,757 girls belonged to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. There were 2,797 male and 203 female teachers of which 1,844 male and 106 female teachers were trained.

Social Education

In 1975-76, there were 28 registered and 216 unregistered Yubak Sanghas with 1,188 and 11,641 members respectively. Besides, there were 25 libraries and reading rooms, 10 Adult Literacy Centres, 5 Community Centres, 16 playgrounds, and 16 Rural Radio Forums with 19 radio sets.

Women's Programme

In 1975-76, there were 396 Mahila Samitis with 3,604 members. Besides, there were 24 Balwadi centres imparting education to 946 children. Thirty-four sewing centres were functioning with 56 sewing machines and 545 members.

Communication

In 1975-76, there were 398 km., 680 km., 779 km., and 300 km. of roads maintained by the Panchayat Samitis, Grama Panchayats, Public Works Department and Rural Engineering Organisation respectively. One hundred and eighty-seven kilometres length of State Highways was passing through the Community Development Blocks of the district. During the year, 23 culverts and 56 kilometres length of roads were constructed.

Irrigation

During the period July 1975 to June 1976, the net irrigated area was 24,447.52 hectares of which 16,100.64 hectares through government canals, 100 hectares through private canals, 2,862 hectares through tanks, 2195.20 hectares through wells and 3189.68 hectares through other water sources.

Co-operation

During the period July 1975 to June 1976, there were 94 Primary Agricultural Credit and Multi-purpose societies, 3 Primary Industrial Co-operative societies, one Labour Construction Co-operative society, and 11 Grain-gollas with 69,599 persons, 368 persons, 61 persons and 9,004 persons as members respectively. The Primary Agricultural Credit and Multi-purpose societies had Rs. 19,97,321 and Rs. 88,53,473 as share capital and working capital respectively. They had advanced loan of Rs. 52,80,482 in cash and 641 quintals of paddy in kind. These societies had distributed materials required

for agricultural production of the value of Rs. 6,58,738. The Agricultural Credit Societies had 16 godowns. The paid up capital and working capital of the Primary Industrial Societies were Rs. 70,530 and Rs. 1,90,640 respectively. They had marketed industrial products of the value of Rs. 95,280. The Labour Construction Co-operative society had Rs. 2,024 and Rs. 12,014 as paid up capital and working capital respectively.

Besides, there were other 4 co-operative societies with a membership of 804. Their paid up capital and working capital were Rs. 40,380 and Rs. 1,44,035 respectively.

In 1975-76, there were 83 electrified villages. 1,499 villages were provided with Primary schools. Post Offices and Telegraph Offices were provided to 233 and 17 villages respectively. There were 28 model villages. Drinking water facility was available in 2,973 villages with 3,197 drinking water wells, 68 tube-wells and 294 tanks. There were 9 small-scale industrial units of which 3 were managed by the Grama Panchayats. An area of 1,123 hectares was brought under soil conservation. There was one unit for pisciculture.

General

APPENDIX I

A list of Community Development Blocks with their names, number of Grama Panchayats, number of villages and date of inception.

Name of the Block	Number of Grama Panchayats	Number of villages	Date of inception of the Blocks
1	2	3	4
Boudh ..	14	402	April, 1954
Phulabani ...	8	318	October, 1955
G. Udayagiri ..	8	156	April, 1956
Nuagan ..	7	267	October, 1956
Baligurha ..	9	373	October, 1956
Tikabali ..	10	233	April, 1957
Chakapad ..	7	192	April, 1957
Raikia ..	9	221	April, 1958
Khajuriparha ..	11	325	April, 1958
Harabhanga ..	11	339	April, 1958
Kotagarh ..	8	197	April, 1961
Kantamal ..	16	410	April, 1962
Phiringia ..	14	628	October, 1962
Daringbarhi ..	14	348	April, 1963
Tumudibandha ..	7	270	April, 1969