CHAPTER VII

OCCUPATIONAL STRUCTURE

After having examined some biological and sociological attributes of population, an attempt will now be made to analyse the economic attributes of Iran's population. The size of the working force, sex-wise participation in economic activities, its division into different occupational groups, and the rural-urban differential in occupational structure are fair indices of, among other things, the type of physical resource base, the system of social organization and the nature of the economy prevailing in a country. Any analysis of the size and age-structure of the working force and its occupational composition unfolds the regional, economic, demographic and cultural diversity of the country and provides a basis for formulating future plans for its social and economic progress.

Fortunately, Iran has a rich treasure of statistical information on the economic attributes of its population. The 1966 census provides the most comprehensive information with regard to the working force and the occupational structure of the country. For this purpose entire population has been divided into two categories (i) those below 10 years of age and (ii) those above 10 years of age. The population over 10 years of age is further divided into two categories: namely, the economically active population and the economically inactive population. The economically active population
consists of the employed who are engaged in some activity and
the unemployed who are capable of working but are not working
at the time of enumeration and are in search of work.\textsuperscript{1} The
economically inactive population includes all those persons
who are aged 10 and above and are not engaged in any economic
activity. This category consists of home makers (family
household workers), students, pensioners and those who are
unable to work. The employed population includes all those
persons who actually work for at least 8 hours during the week
and receive wages in return for the work they do.\textsuperscript{2} The
employed population is classified into the following categories:

0 Agriculture, forestry, hunting and fishing;
1 Mining and quarrying;
2 and 3 Manufacturing;
4 Construction;
5 Electricity, gas, water and sanitary services;
6 Commerce;
7 Transport, storage and communication;
8 Services; and
9 Activities not adequately described.

\textsuperscript{1} \textit{Statistical Yearbook, 1966, Plan Organization, Statistical
Centre of Iran, Tehran, 1966, p.72.}

\textsuperscript{2} \textit{Country's Statistical Yearbook, 1973 (Salnameh-e-Amarive
1352 Keshvar ), Plan and Budget Organization, Statistical
Centre of Iran, Tehran, 1974, p.51.}
MAP 28

Economically Active Population As Percent of Population Aged 15 and Above 1966
(Data by Subregions)
Economically Active Population

According to the 1966 census, about two-thirds of the country's population was aged 10 and above. Out of this 45.66 per cent were economically active (Map 28). A vast majority of the active population consisted of males. While 76.9 per cent of the male population aged 10 and above was recorded as economically active, only 12.39 per cent of the females aged 10 and above were so (Table 13). Thus, the percentage of male workers is much higher than that of the female workers. The females in rural areas, however, may assist the male workers but they are recorded independent economic workers only in a few cases. The extent to which the females participate in work in any area depends primarily upon: the status which they enjoy in the society; the extent to which they are allowed mobility; the economic exigencies necessitating their participation in work; the availability of suitable jobs for females; and the desire on the part of the females to avail themselves of these opportunities. Iran is one such Muslim country where till recently the status of women in the society was low, the females were not allowed to move out of the four walls of the house, there were no compelling economic

Footnote:
3 Article 1117 of the Iranian Civil Code (valid until 1961-62) forbade women to take a job or employment without her husband's consent. The Royal Road to Progress, Ministry of Information and Tourism, Government of Iran, Tehran, 1974, p. 83.
### Table 13

**Iran**

**Working Force: 1966**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Absolute Numbers</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Population aged 10 and above</td>
<td>Economically active population</td>
<td>Employed population</td>
<td>Unemployed population</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Areas</td>
<td>Persons</td>
<td>16,551,100</td>
<td>7,557,900</td>
<td>6,866,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Males</td>
<td>8,536,300</td>
<td>6,564,600</td>
<td>5,961,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Females</td>
<td>8,014,800</td>
<td>993,300</td>
<td>905,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural Areas</td>
<td>Persons</td>
<td>9,776,600</td>
<td>4,804,200</td>
<td>4,263,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Males</td>
<td>5,000,600</td>
<td>4,127,900</td>
<td>3,663,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Females</td>
<td>4,776,000</td>
<td>677,300</td>
<td>599,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban Areas</td>
<td>Persons</td>
<td>6,774,500</td>
<td>2,752,700</td>
<td>2,602,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Males</td>
<td>3,535,700</td>
<td>2,436,700</td>
<td>2,297,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Females</td>
<td>3,238,800</td>
<td>316,000</td>
<td>305,400</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Source:** Calculated from Statistical Yearbook, 1966, Plan Organization, Statistical Centre of Iran, Tehran, 1966, pp. 77, 79, 81, 82, 83, 84.
Economically Active Males As Percent of Males Aged 10 and Above: 1966
(Data by Shahrestans)
Economically Active Females As Percent of Females Aged 10 and Above: 1966
(Data by Shahrestans)
MAP 31

IRAN

Rural Population
Economically Active Population As Percent of Population Aged 10 and Above: 1966
(Data by Shahrestans)

PERCENTAGE

60
50
40
30
20
10
0

(ČSPTÍN SIA

Caspian Sea

Iranian Gulf
reasons for the females to participate in the economic struggle, there were no sufficient employment opportunities for the females and there was not much desire on the part of the females to participate in the economic activities outside the home. This explains to a large extent poor participation rate among the females. The female participation in economic activity is, however, relatively high in rural areas in comparison to urban areas. Whereas 14.18 per cent of the females aged 10 and above in rural areas are recorded as economically active, the corresponding figure for the urban females is only 9.76 per cent. Agriculture in the rural areas provides some operations which are carried on exclusively by the females e.g. fruit picking, fruit drying, picking of tea leaves, sericulture and transplantation of rice. Similarly carpet weaving which is an important secondary activity in rural areas is also dominated by the females. Both agriculture and carpet weaving together account for over 90 per cent of female workers in rural areas. Nonetheless, earning of bread still remains primarily the responsibility of the menfolk both in rural and urban areas.

As regards the regional pattern of active male and female population, a complementary pattern is observed (Maps 29 and 30).

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Rural Population
Economically Active Females As Percent of Females Aged 10 and Above: 1966
(Data by Shahrestans)
MAP 35

Urban Population
Economically Active Males As Percent of Males Aged 10 and Above: 1966
(Data by Shahrestans)
MAP 36

Urban Population
Economically Active Females As Percent of Females Aged 10 and Above: 1966
(Data by Shahrestans)
While the proportion of economically active females is relatively high in the interior of the country in comparison to the peripheral areas, reverse is the case with the spatial pattern of economically active males. Similar is the case with the regional pattern of active males and active females in rural areas (Maps 32 and 33). However, in the case of urban areas no such correlation in the regional pattern of active male and female population is discernible on maps 35 and 36.

There is a sizable difference in the proportion of economically active population in rural and urban areas (Maps 31 to 36). While 40.63 per cent of the urban population aged 10 and above is recorded as economically active, the corresponding figure for rural areas is 49.14 per cent. This disparity is the product of three factors: (i) female participation in work in rural areas is more than that in urban areas; (ii) the activities like agriculture and household industries (carpet weaving) in rural areas can engage a large number of persons in a family, which is not the case with most of the non-agricultural activities in urban places; and (iii) the proportion of persons going in for school and higher education is strikingly higher in urban places than in rural areas. Thus, young

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5 Vadii, K., An Introduction to Human Geography of Iran (Moghādameh-E-Bar Joghrafāye Ensaniye Iran), University Press, Tehran, 1974, p. 143.
persons in urban areas remain inactive for a longer period than their counterparts in rural areas. That is why only 68.92 per cent of the urban male population aged 10 and above is active in comparison to 82.55 per cent males in the rural areas. As regards the regional pattern of active population in rural and urban areas, a fair correspondence between the two is observed on maps 31 and 34. The areas having high proportion of active rural population also have a high proportion of active population in urban areas implying a positive correlation between the two.

As expected, over 80 per cent of the working force belongs to the working age group of 15-64 (Table 14). The age groups of below 15 and above 64, which are usually considered as non-working, have 10.1 and 3.3 per cent of the total workers respectively. Most of the workers below 15 years of age are merely associate workers to their guardians. In fact, the incidence of child workers is still higher but those below 12 years of age are not registered as workers though quite a few of them may be assisting their parents either in carpet weaving or in agriculture. This is more true of females in rural areas. The number of female child workers is higher than that of male child workers, which is both cause and effect of prejudice against the female education in rural areas. Most of the child workers are in carpet weaving. The child participation in work in
Unemployed Persons As Percent of Economically Active Population: 1966 (Data by Shahrestans)

PERCENTAGE

25
20
15
10
5

IRAN

Caspian Sea

USSR

Persian Gulf

Oman Sea
### Table 14
**IRAN**

**Economically Active Population by Age: 1966**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age group</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Per cent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Active Population</td>
<td>7,557,900</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10-14</td>
<td>762,600</td>
<td>10.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-19</td>
<td>897,000</td>
<td>11.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20-24</td>
<td>822,900</td>
<td>10.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-34</td>
<td>1,815,000</td>
<td>24.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35-44</td>
<td>1,644,100</td>
<td>21.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45-54</td>
<td>883,100</td>
<td>11.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55-64</td>
<td>482,900</td>
<td>6.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65 and over</td>
<td>250,300</td>
<td>3.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Urban areas is relatively low because it is only after attaining the age of 12 years that a person can be recorded as worker as it is illegal to employ a worker of less than 12 years of age.

**Unemployment**

According to 1966 census, there were 691,400 persons of over 10 years of age who were recorded as unemployed. These constitute 9.15 per cent of the economically active population in the age group of 10 and above (Map 37).
IRAN
Rural Population
Unemployed Persons As Percent of
Economically Active Population: 1966
(Data by Shahrestans)
There was no appreciable difference in the degree of unemployment among the males and females. While 9.19 per cent of the economically active males were in search of jobs the corresponding figure for the females was 8.86 per cent. However, rural and urban areas differ much from each other in the degree of unemployment. There were 541,600 unemployed persons in rural areas in contrast to 149,800 unemployed persons in urban areas. Thus, whereas 11.26 per cent of the economically active population in rural areas was unemployed only 5.44 per cent of the economically active population in urban areas was jobless.

Unemployment in Iran is the product of the coincidence of the time of census enumeration (month of November) with the completion of harvest in most parts of the country. After the harvest a part of the economically active population gets unemployed and becomes job seekers. This explains relatively higher degree of unemployment recorded in rural areas in comparison to the urban areas (Maps 38 and 39). Spatially, the coastal areas of the Persian Gulf and of the Caspian Sea and industrially developing Khuzestan constitute the areas of high incidence of unemployment in contrast to the dry desert areas of the east where the unemployment incidence is the lowest. While the high degree of unemployment in the two coastal areas is associated with the agricultural set up of their economy.
which renders many a worker workless seasonally after each harvest, the unemployment in the industrially developing areas of Khuzestan is the product of large scale influx of job-seeking in-migrants.

In brief, only about two-fifths of the population aged 10 and above is directly engaged in the economic struggle; the percentage of those engaged in economically gainful activities is higher in rural areas than that in urban areas; the earning of bread is the responsibility primarily of the males; and the statistically recorded unemployment in the country is mainly seasonal and is attributable to the coincidence of the time of census enumeration with the completion of the harvest.

**Occupational Structure : 1966**

The distribution of labour force into various occupations is a fair index of the stage of economic development attained by a country. Normally the proportion of workers engaged in primary activities declines in relative importance as a country advances economically. In advanced countries like the U.S.A., the U.K., Australia, New Zealand,

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6 Tehreni, M., *op.cit.*, p. 56.

Argentina and Uruguay the proportion of workers engaged in primary activities is well below 25 per cent while it ranges between 25 and 50 per cent in the U.S.S.R., Japan, Austria, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Finland, Ireland and Chile. In countries of the less developed realm the corresponding figure is invariably much above 50 per cent. Thus, according to the distribution of labour force in various activities, Iran is only moderately developed, but among fast developing countries of the world as 46.3 per cent of its active population derives its livelihood directly from primary activities and its secondary and tertiary sectors are growing rapidly (Table 15). While the growth of the secondary sector represents mainly a strengthening of the economic potential of a country, a large increment in tertiary activities, leading to a well balanced tertiary group, points to a high degree of sophistication and flowering of national personality. The secondary and tertiary activities in the country claim 25.6 per cent and 25.4 per cent of the employed population, respectively. About two-thirds of those employed in secondary activities are wage and salary earners, about 20 per cent are own account workers and about 6 per cent

8 ibid., p.173.

9 The Census of Iran uses the term 'own account worker' to include all self-employed workers who do not employ any worker.
### Table 15

**IRAN**  
**Occupational Structure: 1966**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>PERCENTAGE All Areas</th>
<th>IN EMPLOYED Rural Areas</th>
<th>POPULATION Urban Areas</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Persons Males Females</td>
<td>Persons Males Females</td>
<td>Persons Males Females</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Primary Activities</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>i) Agriculture, Forestry, Hunting, and Fishing</td>
<td>46.3</td>
<td>49.92</td>
<td>22.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ii) Mining &amp; Quarrying</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>0.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Secondary Activities</strong></td>
<td>25.6</td>
<td>21.29</td>
<td>55.19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>i) Manufacturing</td>
<td>18.0</td>
<td>12.35</td>
<td>55.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ii) Construction</td>
<td>7.6</td>
<td>8.76</td>
<td>0.19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tertiary Activities</strong></td>
<td>25.4</td>
<td>26.26</td>
<td>20.17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>i) Electricity, Gas, Water &amp; Sanitary Services</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>0.61</td>
<td>0.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ii) Commerce</td>
<td>7.8</td>
<td>8.82</td>
<td>1.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>iii) Transport, Storage and Communication</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>3.82</td>
<td>0.17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>iv) Services</td>
<td>13.8</td>
<td>13.01</td>
<td>18.86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Activities Not Reported</strong></td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>2.53</td>
<td>1.84</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 16  
IRAN  
Percentage of Employed Population by Class of Worker and Major Activity: 1966

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class of worker</th>
<th>Agriculture</th>
<th>Industry</th>
<th>Services</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total employed</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employer</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>3.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Own-account workers</td>
<td>58.6</td>
<td>20.1</td>
<td>28.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government employees</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>32.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wage and salary earners</td>
<td>24.2</td>
<td>66.9</td>
<td>34.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unpaid family workers</td>
<td>15.3</td>
<td>6.3</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unpaid apprentices</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not reported</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>0.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


are unpaid family workers. 10 Similarly among those engaged in tertiary services, wage and salary earners are 34.3 per cent, government employees 32.1 per cent and own account workers 28.3 per cent (Table 16). However, among the various occupations, agriculture alone claims the largest share of the employed population (46.0 per cent), manufacturing

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10 The unpaid family workers according to the Census of Iran are those workers who work in business operated by another member of the family or a relative and do not receive any payment for the same.
with 18 per cent comes next, services (13.8 per cent), commerce (7.8 per cent) and construction (7.6 per cent) are the third, fourth and fifth ranking activities, respectively. The occupational structure of urban areas is contrastingly different from that of the rural areas. While about 70 per cent of the employed population in rural areas derives its livelihood from primary activities, the corresponding figure for urban areas is only 7 per cent. Of those employed in urban areas a little more than half are engaged in tertiary activities like services, trade and commerce and transport. The secondary activities of manufacturing and construction also claim a large share of the urban employed population. By contrast, the secondary activities in rural areas claim only about 19 per cent of the rural employed population, most of which are female workers engaged in carpet weaving carried out in almost all rural areas. Tertiary activities claiming about 9 per cent of the rural employed include teaching, health, administration, trade and commerce. Thus, one of the most distinguishing features between rural and urban population is the nature of their occupational structure.

Regional Pattern of Occupational Structure: 1966

*Agriculture, Forestry, Hunting and Fishing*

Agriculture together with forestry, hunting and fishing claiming 46 per cent of the total employed population is the first ranking economic activity of the country. As
MAP 40
Persons Employed in Agriculture, Forestry, Hunting, Fishing etc. As Percent of Total Employed Population: 1966
(Data by Shahrestans)
Females Employed in Agriculture, Forestry,
Hunting, Fishing etc. As Percent of Total
Employed Females: 1966
(Data by Shahrestans)
expected, these activities are male dominated. Only 6.3 per cent of the workers engaged in these activities are females which account for about 22 per cent of the total female workers in the country. There are, however, wide regional variations in the proportion of those engaged in these activities ranging from 3 per cent in Tehran shahrestan to over 90 per cent in Dehloran shahrestan (Map 40). Accordingly, the proportion of male and female workers engaged in these activities also has wide regional contrasts (Maps 41 and 42). Broadly speaking, the proportion of those employed in agriculture etc. is the lowest in the interior of the country, where about 80 per cent of the country's large scale factory industry is concentrated, and goes on increasing as one moves outward. The proportion of agricultural workers is positively correlated with the availability of cultivable land, adequacy of precipitation, productivity of soil, availability of water for irrigation and is negatively correlated with the degree of industrial and urban development.

Manufacturing

Manufacturing is next only to agriculture in terms of percentage of persons employed. Of the total employed population, 18 per cent is engaged in manufacturing which includes both household and factory industry. Unlike agriculture which was overwhelmingly masculine activity,
Persons Employed in Manufacturing As Percent of Total Employed Population: 1966
(Data by Shahrestans)
Males Employed in Manufacturing As Percent of Total Employed Males: 1966
(Data by Shahrestans)
Females Employed in Manufacturing As Percent of Total Employed Females: 1966
(Data by Shahrestans)
manufacturing is shared fairly by both males and females. Out of the total workers employed in manufacturing, about 60 per cent are males and 40 per cent are females. This is mainly because of the fact that carpet weaving is done largely by females, particularly in rural areas. This is evident from the fact that over 60 per cent of the female workers in rural areas are engaged in manufacturing alone. Carpet weaving and handicraft industries which engage a large number of female workers are, of course, traditional industries of Iran which have been there for centuries together. The modern factory industry emerged in Iran in the beginning of the present century with the discovery of oil. No wonder, oil and petrochemical industries by now have attained the first ranking status in terms of workers engaged, capital invested, money value of the produce and foreign exchange earnings. Textiles, sugar, heavy industries and consumer goods industries are the other important industries of Iran which are in the process of growth.

Spatially the proportion of those engaged in manufacturing varies from a minimum of 1.0 per cent in Deholran shahrestan to a maximum of 63.7 per cent in Kashan shahrestan (Map 43). Similar regional variations in the proportion of male and female workers engaged in manufacturing activities were also observed (Maps 44 and 45). However,
the disparity index in the case of females employed in manufacturing was higher than that of males. The regional pattern of the proportion of those engaged in manufacturing was complementary to the spatial pattern of agricultural workers. The proportion of workers in manufacturing was the highest in the interior areas and decline outward. Interestingly, the agriculturally backward interior developed a tradition in carpet weaving out of economic exigency. Consequently, manufacturing, particularly of carpets, blankets and velvets gained significance. Based upon this tradition the interior areas of Iran such as Nain, Kerman, Yazd, Esfahan and Kerman shahrestans have by now become famous for manufacturing of high quality carpets not only in Iran but also in the entire world. So great is the dominance of carpet manufacturing in the world of manufacturing activities of Iran, that regional pattern of workers employed in manufacturing is influenced significantly by the magnitude of workers in carpet manufacturing. Since, those engaged in carpet manufacturing are largely females, the spatial pattern of workers in manufacturing conforms more to the spatial pattern of female workers in manufacturing and less to that of male workers engaged in manufacturing. Consequently, areas of concentration of such manufacturing activities which are relatively masculine in nature like oil and petrochemicals and which play more important role in the economy of the
Persons Employed in Services As Percent of Total Employed Population: 1966
(Data by Shahrestans)
country do not emerge so prominently on the map showing the regional pattern of workers in manufacturing.

Services

Administration, education, health, armed services account for 13.8 per cent of the employed population and claim the third rank among various occupations of the country. The proportion of people engaged in these miscellaneous services would have been still higher but for a definitional difficulty. According to the census of Iran, the occupation of a person is recorded according to the place of his work.\textsuperscript{11} Thus, an accountant working in a factory will be treated as employed in manufacturing and not as employed in administrative services. Of the total workers employed in services only 18 per cent are females. These females are employed mostly in health services as nurses, in education as teachers, and some in administrative services. The proportion of workers engaged in services also displays regional variations, though in small magnitude (Map 46). Dehloran shahrestan, economically perhaps the most backward area of the country with a predominantly agricultural base has the lowest proportion (3.2 per cent) of workers in services. By contrast,

IRAN

Females Employed in Services As Percent of Total Employed Females: 1966
(Data by Shahrestans)

PERCENTAGE

40
30
20
10

400,000 400,000
the shahrestan of Shemiranat with 38.2 per cent of its employed population in services has the highest proportion employed in services. The regional variations in the proportion of those employed in services conform to the patterns of industrial and urban development in the country. The areas with high degree of urban development, high degree of industrial concentration and strategic areas with deployment of armed services have, thus, high proportion of those employed in services. By contrast, the areas with poor agriculture based economy with little diversification, still have a low proportion of those engaged in services. Shemiranat (proximity to the national capital), Khaneh, Zaheden, Shahpur, Rezaiyeh, Sardasht, Maragheh, Senandaj (strategic location), Shahrud, Astara, Bandar-e-Pahlavi (high urban development), Masjed-e-Soleiman, Khorramshahr, Ahvaz, Abadan, Bandar-e-Mahshahr, Bandar-e-Bushehr, Kermanshah (oil and petrochemicals) are the prominent areas of the former group. Dehloran, Meshginshahr, Qorveh, Kohkiluyeh, Shahr-e-Kord, Najafabad, Kashan and Hashtrud are typical areas of the latter group. A comparison of maps 47 and 48 reveals that the proportion of females in services displays far more regional disparities than that of males.

Commerce
Trade and commerce engaging 7.8 per cent of the employed population in the country rank as the fourth major
IRAN MAP 51

Females Employed in Commerce As Percent of Total Employed Females: 1966
(Data by Shahrestans)

P E R C E N T A G E

25
20
15
10
Persons Employed in Construction As Percent of Total Employed Population: 1966
(Data by Shahrestans)
occupation (Map 49). This activity is overwhelmingly masculine as about 98.0 per cent of the workers in trade and commerce are males. The proportion of males employed in commercial activities controls the regional pattern of commercial services (Map 50) since the females do not participate in commercial activities in large numbers (Map 51). Map 49 does display some regional variations in the proportion of workers in trade and commerce. Almost half of the country has less than 5 per cent of its workers in commerce and in the remaining areas 5 to 10 per cent workers are in such activities. There are very few areas where more than 10 per cent of the employed population derives its livelihood from commercial activities. Broadly speaking, coastal areas facing the Caspian Sea and the Persian Gulf, studded with a number of port towns, and the border areas facing the countries with which Iran has open trade relations have relatively high proportion of workers in commercial activities. Interestingly, the border areas facing Iraq and the U.S.S.R., with whom trade is permitted only through government agencies, have a poor commercial activity in comparison to those which border with Turkey and Pakistan in whose case there are no restrictions for trade.

Construction

Next to commerce is the construction work which engages 7.6 per cent of the employed population (Map 52).
Males Employed in Construction as Percent of Total Employed Males: 1966 (Data by Shahrestans)
Females Employed in Construction As Percent of Total Employed Females: 1966 (Data by Shahrestans)
Construction activity is carried on exclusively by the menfolk as 99.7 per cent of workers in these activities are males (Maps 53 and 54). Another significant characteristic of the workers in construction activities is that almost 90 per cent of them are wage earners and about 9 per cent are own account workers. The usual construction activities include construction of highways, railways, commercial, industrial, administrative and residential buildings and establishments. Spatially, the proportion of workers engaged in construction activities varied in accordance with the prevalence of these developmental activities. Accordingly, Lar shahrestan area which falls in the earthquake zone of the country and has been suffering damages caused by frequent earthquakes and where construction activity is almost a continuous phenomenon, has the largest proportion (24.1 per cent) of workers in construction (Map 52). Similarly, Meyaneh and Mehran shahrestans which also had more than 15 per cent of their workers in construction were in fact the base camps for construction workers engaged in building of Asian commercial highway No. 1 and Foseil-Mehran road, respectively. Shahr-e-Kord shahrestan where the first steel mill of the country was being developed also recorded a high proportion of workers in construction activities. In fact, the previous decade or so (1956-66) had witnessed development of roads of all kinds in almost all parts of Iran, except the
Persons Employed in Transport, Storage, Communications etc. As Percent of Total Employed Population: 1966

(Data by Shahrestans)
Males Employed in Transport, Storage, Communications etc. As Percent of Total Employed Males: 1966
(Data by Shahrestans)
IRAN

Females Employed in Transport, Storage, Communications etc. As Percent of Total Employed Females: 1966
(Data by Shahrestans)

PERCENTAGE

10
5
0
mountainous region (where the road construction activity was handicapped by the difficult terrain) and also the Caspian coastal area (where already a good network of roads was in existence). The regional pattern of workers in construction activities was, thus, a faithful reflection of these road building activities.

**Transport, Storage and Communications**

Workers engaged in transport, storage and communications account for only 3.3 per cent of the total employed population. Like construction activities transportation, storage and communication are also carried on exclusively by males as the females constitute about 0.5 per cent of the total workers in these activities. A little over three-fourths of the total workers belonging to this category were concentrated in urban areas. Broadly speaking, the percentage of workers in these activities is relatively high in the southern coastal areas, the northern coastal areas, Central province and farmandarikol of Semnan (Maps 55, 56 and 57). All these areas owe their high proportion of workers in these activities to their high degree of commercial activity, and high degree of urban development.

**Electricity, Gas, Water and Sanitary Services**

Only about 0.5 per cent of the employed population in the country is engaged in providing these services which too are exclusively male dominated. Most of these workers
Females Employed in Electricity, Gas, Water and Sanitary Services As Percent of Total Employed Females: 1966 (Data by Shahrestans)
IRAN

MAP 61

Persons Employed in Mining and Quarrying
As Percent of Total Employed Population: 1966
(Data by Shahrestans)

PERCENTAGE

20
15
10

USSR
Caspian Sea

Persian Gulf
Oman Sea
Males Employed in Mining and Quarrying
As Percent of Total Employed Males: 1966
(Data by Shahrestans)
are government employees, or wage and salary earners in private organisations. Moreover, these services are concentrated only in urban areas, therefore, the proportion of workers engaged in these services in rural areas is negligible. In its regional pattern the proportion of workers in such activities displays a relative concentration in oil producing areas of Khuzestan and in and around the national capital (Maps 58, 59 and 60).

Mining and Quarrying

Mining and quarrying activities in Iran claim only 0.3 per cent of the employed population. This again is overwhelmingly masculine activity and over 90 per cent of the people employed in these activities are wage and salary earners. Regionally, the interior ostan of Khorasan, Esfahan, Central and Khuzestan have a relative concentration of workers engaged in these activities (Maps 61, 62 and 63).

Conclusions

1. If the population below the age of 10 is excluded, about two-thirds of Iran's population constitutes the potential manpower. Out of this only a little less than half (45.66 per cent) was economically active. Such a large proportion of inactive population (54 per cent) was due to meagre participation rate among the females. Poor participation rate of the females was attributable to: (1) low status granted
to women in Iran until recently; (ii) restrictions on their movement outside their homes under the tradition of hejab (veil); (iii) limited job opportunities for the females; and (iv) lack of desire on the part of females to join hands with menfolk in the economic struggle. However, rural females were found to be more active economically in comparison to their urban counterparts. This was firstly due to the fact that carpet weaving which accounted for over 60 per cent of the rural female workers could be carried on inside the house and secondly, the females could participate in various agricultural operations. Agriculture engaging over 30 per cent of the rural female workers was only distant second ranking activity after carpet weaving. By contrast, in urban areas the nature of jobs is such that the females could not participate without moving out of their homes.

2. A sizable difference in the proportion of active population in rural and urban areas has also been observed. While in rural areas about half the population is active in the case of urban areas the figure approximates 40 per cent. Such a difference was attributable, firstly, to the difference in the nature of economy of the two areas. While agriculture and household industry in the countryside could engage a number of family workers, it was not the case in urban areas. Secondly, proportion of persons going to schools and other
higher educational institutions in rural areas was much less in comparison to that in the urban areas. Thirdly, female participation in work in the countryside was more than that in the urban areas. All these speak for relatively high rate of participation in rural areas in comparison to urban areas.

3. A little less than one-tenth of the economically active population of the country was recorded as jobless. The incidence of unemployment was, however, relatively high in rural areas than in urban areas. The incidence of unemployment would have been much less but for the fact that the time of census enumeration (November) is immediately after the completion of harvest when a large number of workers become unemployed seasonally, particularly in rural areas. This phenomenon also explains relatively high degree of unemployment in rural areas.

4. Among the various sectors of economy, the secondary and the tertiary together share equally half of the active population leaving the other half to the fold of primary activities like agriculture, fishing, hunting, mining and quarrying. The occupational structure of the country, is thus, predominantly agricultural. Activity wise, after agriculture manufacturing claims the second rank though only distantly while services, commerce, and construction rank third, fourth and fifth, respectively. However, the
occupational structure of urban areas was contrastingly different from that of the countryside. Whereas rural economy was primarily agricultural with 70 per cent of its working force engaged in primary activities, the tertiary activities like services, trade, commerce, and transport dominated the urban scene engaging over half the working force.