

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

**OCCUPATIONAL MOBILITY OF CHITRAKARS AT PRASASTHA IN
HOWRAH, WEST BENGAL**

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***Abstract:** The study is based on socio-economic condition of idol makers of Prasastha in Howrah district of West Bengal. India. Prasastha is identified with the zone of idol makers who trace their lineage to Chitrakar, artists by caste, who have shown marked occupational mobility as they are idol makers. In Hindu caste system generally the kumbhakars are associated with idol making. The occupational mobility was gradual, but the post pandemic phase the occupational mobility was starker as the idol making took a back seat and their occupational profile changed. In pandemic situation they were losing many things by physically or psychologically. The present paper focusses on the occupational shift of the Chitrakars at a micro level.*

Key words: Caste based occupation, occupational mobility, capitalism, market socialism, small-scale industry, large scale industry.