



Study on factors responsible for farmers suicide in Amravati district

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ABSTRACT

The present study was conducted in the area of 14 Tahsils of Amravati district. The main objective of the study was to find factors responsible for farmers suicide. The finding of the study revealed that the majority of the deceased farmers were of middle age having medium level of economic motivation and small size of land holdings. However, the observations also showed that most of the farmers were from joint family having medium size of family with low annual income and low social participation. Majority of the farmers had single crop farming in every year and high level of debt. The observations also showed that most of the farmers had fair health. The correlation analysis showed that significant variables were (i) Indebtedness, (ii) Cropping pattern, (iii) Annual income, (iv) Social participation, (v) Family type, (vi) Family size and the non-significant variables included (i) Age (ii), Education (iii), Land holding, (iv) Occupation, (v) Economic motivation, (vi) Health.

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INTRODUCTION

"Farmers takes the birth in debt and die in the same condition". This was the position of farmers before independence and it still continued after 60 years of independence. If we analyze the suicides by farmers in Maharashtra, it is revealed that it is higher in Vidarbha region of the State where farmers preferred cultivation of "white gold" i.e. cotton – a risky venture that suffered due to non-availability of quality seeds coupled with the farmers or incapacity to buy costly Bt. cotton seeds. They could also not get remunerative price for their produce.

It is considered as a sign in many religion, and a crime in some jurisprudence. On the other hand, some cultures have viewed as a honourable way to get away from certain shameful or hopeless situation. When person is critically sick even in his advanced age, he prays God to relieve him of his sickness and enable to live for many more years. His wife, children, grandchildren keep his interest live and force him to live longer but why then he commits suicide? The specific objectives have been undertaken as to study socio-economic profile of the farmers who have committed suicide and to explore personal, social,

economic and situational factors leading to suicide by the farmers.

METHODOLOGY

Amravati district in Maharashtra state has been selected for this study. A list of the farmers who had committed suicide during the year 2009 was obtained from the Collector Office, Amravati. The families of these deceased persons / the beneficiaries of government package were taken as the respondent families, and the responsible persons from the family (wife, son, father/brother) were taken as the respondents for the study.

Thus, all the 40 families of deceased farmers were contacted personally and interview at their places of residence.

OBSERVATION AND ANALYSIS

The findings of the study have been summarized in Table 1 and 2 .

Distribution of respondents according to their personal, social, economical and situational characteristics :

Table 1, shows that the nearly about half (45.00 per cent) of the deceased farmers were

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