

Factors responsible for farmers suicide in Wardha district of Maharashtra

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ABSTRACT

The study was conducted in the area of 8 tahsils. The main objective of the study was to find out most important factor responsible for farmers suicide. The findings of the study revealed that the majority of deceased farmers were of young age, having medium education and economic motivation with small land holding. Most of the farmers were from the nuclear family with low annual income and medium social participation, having low irrigation potential, small land holding and low education. These were major factors responsible for farmers suicide. It was also observed that 46 per cent farmers were drug addict.

INTRODUCTION

Farmers suicide is the most tragic and dramatic indices of the crisis of survival faced by Indian peasants. Indian farmers facing the problem of re-sowing of seeds due to irregularity of rain fall and dramatic fall in prices of farm produce, rising cost of cultivation, amounting debt burden and dipping income of cultivators have plunged agriculture into unprecedented crisis. In Maharashtra, the problems to have aggravated from the past five years with the result that many farmers opted the path of suicide to escape it. Hence, the present study was felt important to know the problem and causes responsible to farmers suicide.

METHODOLOGY

List of 86 farmers from 8 tahsil of Wardha district who had committed suicide during the year 2008 was obtained. Responsible persons from families of deceased farmers were contacted to collect the information personally. The data were tabulated and analyzed. Age, education, land holding, annual income, family type, family size, irrigation potential, role of farmer, indebtedness, occupation, social participation, cropping pattern, economic motivation, risk preference were studied as independent variables. While suicide was taken as a dependent variable.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

From Table 1 it was observed that 38.37 per cent deceased farmers were from young age group 55.8 per cent had education upto 10th standard, 80 per cent farmers had small land holding, 57 per cent farmers had low annual income, 52 per cent were from nuclear family, 63.95 per cent had low irrigation potential, 48.84 per cent had medium level of social participation, nearly 60 per cent of farmers had medium level of economic motivation and medium risk preference. The step regression analysis has indicated that the land holding and education jointly (48 per cent) were the significant influencing factor leading to the society. Similar results were found by Mohanty and Shroff (2004) and Katakam (2005).

The facts behind the suicide were studied (Table 2) which showed that 46 per cent farmers were addict of alcohol, about 13.20 per cent were affected by serious disease. Nearly 9.80 % farmers were mentally imbalance. About 15.1 per cent farmers have quarreled before suicide, 7 per cent farmers were worried about no income, 6.60 per cent and 1.15 per cent farmers were worried about repayment of indebtedness and child education, respectively. While 1.15 per cent farmers were worried about daughter marriage. Similar results were observed by Shridhar (2006).

Conclusion:

It will be concluded that indebtedness was

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Table 1 : Distribution of farmers according to their characters

Sr. No.	Characteristics	Distribution		
		Young	Middle	Old
1.	Age	33 (38.37%)	24 (27.91%)	29 (35.72%)
2.	Education	Upto Primary 27 (31.40%)	High School 48 (55.81%)	Jr. College and Above 11 (12.79%)
3.	Land holding	Small 68 (79.70%)	Medium 18 (20.93%)	Big 0
4.	Annual income	Low 49 (56.98%)	Medium 34 (39.54%)	High 3 (3.48%)
5.	Type of family	Nuclear 45 (52.33%)		Joint 41 (47.67%)
6.	Size of family	Small 31 (36.04%)	Medium 53 (61.63%)	Big 02 (2.33%)
7.	Irrigation potential	Low 55 (63.95%)	Medium 18 (20.93%)	High 13 (15.12%)
8.	Role of farmer	Independent 43 (50.00%)		Supporting 43 (50.00%)
9.	Indebtedness	Low 40 (46.51%)	Medium 26 (30.23%)	High 20 (23.26%)
10.	Occupation	Farming 56 (65.12%)	Farming + Labour 21 (24.42%)	Farming + Business 09 (10.46%)
11.	Social participation	Low 35 (40.69%)	Medium 42 (48.84%)	High 09 (10.47%)
12.	Cropping pattern	Mono-cropping 56 (65.12%)	Double/Multiple 20 (23.26%)	Perennial 10 (11.62%)
13.	Economic motivation	Low 20 (20.25%)	Medium 51 (59.31%)	High 15 (17.44%)
14.	Risk preference	Low 18 (20.93%)	Medium 50 (58.14%)	High 18 (20.93%)

Figure in parenthesis were percentage

Table 2 : Factor behind the suicide incidences

Sr. No.	Factor responsible for suicide	Percentage
1.	Suicide farmers was drug alcoholic addicted	46.00
2.	Suicide farmers was affected by serious disease	13.20
3.	Worried about daughters marriage	1.15
4.	Mentally imbalance	9.80
5.	Worried about child education	1.15
6.	Tension about no income	7.00
7.	Having tension due to quarrels with others	15.10
8.	Worried about indebtedness	6.60

not the major cause behind the farmers suicide. It means that drug addiction was the main factor behind farmers suicide.

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