



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 (45.00per cent) of the deceased farmers were

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in middle age group 36 to 50 years while 37.50 per cent appeared in young below 35 years. Majority (32.50 per cent) of the deceased farmers had education upto Primary level. Relatively higher proportion (42.50 per cent) of respondent families possessed small size of land holding, followed by 25.00 per cent of the respondents possessing marginal and semi-medium size of land holdings. Two third (65.00 per cent) of the respondents had low annual income. Big majority (65.00 per cent) of the deceased farmers had low social participation followed by 35.00 per cent as medium level of social participation. Nearly about half (47.50 per cent) of the deceased farmers had medium (4 to 6 members) sized family. More than half (57.50 per cent) of the deceased farmers were from the joint family. Majority (67.50 per cent) of the deceased farmers had agriculture as their main occupation. Majority (80.00 per cent) of the respondents had reported single crop cropping pattern every year. Two third (65.50 per cent) of the farmers appeared in high indebtedness above Rs.40,000 and 2.50 per cent of the farmers appeared in low indebtedness upto Rs.20,000. Nearly half (47.50 per cent) of the respondents had medium level of economic motivation. The above observations was similar to the investigations made by Jadhav (2008).

Table 1 : Personal, social, economical and situational characteristics			
Sr. No.	Profile	No. of respondents (n=40)	Percentage
1.	Age		
	Young	15	37.50
	Middle	18	45.00
	Old	07	17.50
2.	Education		
	Illiterate	09	22.50
	Primary	18	32.50
	Secondary	12	30.00
	Junior College and above	06	15.00
3.	Land Holding		
	Marginal	10	25.00
	Small	17	42.50
	Semi-medium	10	25.00
	Medium	02	05.00
	Big	01	02.50

Table 1 Contd.....

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4.	Annual Income		
	Very low	08	20.00
	Low	26	65.00
	Medium Low	06	15.00
	Medium	00	00.00
	High	00	00.00
5.	Social Participation		
	Low	26	65.00
	Medium	14	35.00
	High	00	00.00
6.	Family Size		
	Small	02	05.00
	Medium	19	47.50
	Big	19	47.50
7.	Family Type		
	Nuclear	17	42.50
	Joint	23	57.50
8.	Occupation		
	Agriculture family	27	67.50
	Agriculture + Laborers family	08	20.00
	Agriculture + Business	05	12.50
	Agriculture + Service	00	00.00
9.	Cropping Pattern		
	Seasonal / Mono cropping	32	80.00
	Double / Multiple cropping	07	17.50
	Perennial and Orchards	01	02.50
10.	Indebtedness		
	Low	01	02.50
	Medium	12	30.00
	High	27	67.50
11.	Economic Motivation		
	Low	09	22.50
	Medium	19	47.50
	High	12	30.00
12.	Health		
	Poor	10	25.00
	Fair	26	65.00
	Good	04	10.00
	Very Good	00	00.00
	Excellent	00	00.00

Correlation analysis :

With a view to find which factors were significantly responsible for farmers suicide, all the twelve independent and one dependent variables were fitted into the correlation model. (Table 2).

Table 2: Correlation analysis

Sr. No.	Variables	Coefficient of correlation 'r'	Tabulated value 't'
1.	Age	-0.126361	0.78524 ^{NS}
2.	Education	-0.0142115	0.08761 ^{NS}
3.	Occupation	-0.651120	0.40223 ^{NS}
4.	Land holding	0.233865	1.48276 ^{NS}
5.	Cropping pattern	0.3257352	2.12380*
6.	Annual income	0.345801	2.27181*
7.	Family type	0.3593879	2.37403*
8.	Family size	0.3837507	0.56173*
9.	Social participation	0.42062191	2.85801*
10.	Indebtedness	0.7141048	6.28828*
11.	Economic motivation	-0.021801	0.13442 ^{NS}
12.	Health	-0.0577246	0.35643 ^{NS}

* Indicate significance of values at 0.05 level of probability 2.021
Respectively ^{NS} Non-significant

From Table 2 it is clear that six out of twelve variables were significant contribution in suicide of the farmers. The significant variables included, indebtedness, cropping

pattern, annual income, social participation, family type, family size. while age, education, land holding, occupation, economic motivation and health variables were non-significant. The above observations distribution is supported by Deshmukh (2009).

Conclusion:

From the findings of the present study, it is concluded that indebtedness, cropping pattern, annual income, social participation, family type and family size, were the factors responsible for farmers suicide in Amravati district.

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