



SUICIDE FARMERS IN MAHARASHTRA: A CRITICAL STUDY

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ABSTRACT

India is emerging as a new world power in the future. It is important for the development of agriculture. Because, 50 % of the population is dependent on agriculture sector. So, without the development of agriculture, India's development is impossible. In the past few years, Indian farmers are committing suicide. In India, 11,370 farmers committed suicide in 2016. When Maharashtra thinks of the highest number of suicides in India. In 2015, 3228 farmers committed suicide. Farmers' suicide in Maharashtra is a serious matter.

Many schemes have been implemented since the beginning of the planning for the development of agriculture. But still there is no development of agriculture. Considering the growing population of India, farm production should be increased and self-sufficiency in food supply. Otherwise, India will have to face serious problems. In this research, the number of suicides by farmers in India as well as in Maharashtra, why suicide in Maharashtra is high, what are the causes of suicides? And it has been studied for ways to reduce the suicides of farmers.

KEYWORDS: India, Agriculture, Suicides, Farmers, Maharashtra, etc.

INTRODUCTION

India is a country of agriculture. 67% of the total population of India lives in rural areas. Even today 50% of the population is dependent on farming. However, the share of agriculture's GDP is 17% lesser. Therefore, it is very important to develop farming. Agriculture is important in the Indian economy. It is important that India, with a population of 2, has its own self-sufficiency in food production. The large number of people dependent on the farming community of India's population. Therefore, it is not possible to develop India without the development of agriculture. Still, India has not been able to develop agriculture.

Various schemes have been implemented since the beginning of the planning to develop agriculture but, it has not been a success. The result of this is the suicide of farmers growing day by day. Farmers' suicide has become an important issue before India. When the current suicide rate was seen, As per the ADSI (Accidental Deaths and Suicides in India) Reports for 2015 and data as provided by NCRB for 2016

(provisional), the total number of suicides by farmers in the country according to states is mentioned. Farmers' suicides during the period come down approximately 9.77 percent, from 12,602 to 11,370. In Maharashtra, the highest number of suicides is recorded by farmers, while the agriculture ministry says the suicides situation has improved.

RESEARCH PROBLEM

There are many big questions before the Indian economy. For many years, we have appointed various study groups and experts to solve the problem of agriculture. The farmer's suicide among them is an important problem in the development of agriculture. Farmers' suicide is higher in Maharashtra than the total number of suicides among farmers. Therefore, without the development of development is impossible.

OBJECTIVES OF STUDY

1. Reviewing the suicides of farmers in India.
2. To Study the suicide of farmers in Maharashtra.



3. To study the causes (various reasons) for farmers suicide in the Maharashtra state.
4. Measures for farm development and elimination of suicide.

IMPORTANCE OF STUDY

India is an agricultural country. Therefore, it is important to develop farming. India's suicide rate has increased due to agricultural backwardness. Maharashtra has the highest number of suicides. Being a serious problem of farmer suicides, it is important to study it.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Keeping in view the important of the subject the appropriate methodology has been adopted to examine the objectives of the study. The study depends upon only secondary data. This data is collected from periodicals, newspapers, journals, Report etc. The period of seventeen years selected for the purpose of the study i.e. 2001 to 2017.

RATIO OF SUICIDE FARMERS IN INDIA

Historical records relating to depression, rebellion and high mortality rates in India's farmers, especially cash crop producers, are from the nineteenth century. India is an agriculture country and about 70 percent of the people depend on agriculture directly or indirectly. Agricultural production in India is largely dependent on monsoon and there is uncertainty in the production of agriculture. Farmer suicides report for 11.2 percent of all suicides in India. Activists and scholars have provided a number of conflicting reasons for farmer suicides, such as monsoon failure, overburdened debt, government policies, public mental health, personal problems, and family problems. According to an Indian study conducted in 2002, there has been a correlation between being involved in the activities of the victim entrepreneur and failing to meet the expected goals due to situation constraints. The development of agriculture is not yet complete. Therefore, costs increase with lower incomes. This has resulted in a large number of suicides. The following table can see the nature of suicides in India with the help of the table below.

Table No. 1
Farmers Suicide in India(2015-16)

Sr.No.	States	Farmers	
		2015	2016
1	Maharashtra	3030	2550
2	Karnataka	1197	1212
3	Telangana	1358	632
4	Madhya Pradesh	581	599
5	Chattisgarh	854	585
6	Andra Pradesh	516	239
7	Panjab	100	222
All India		8007	6351

Source: NCRB, 2015 & GoI, 2013,

Some important states will be studied in the table above. In Maharashtra, there were 3030 cases of suicides in 2015. Although the number of people suicides in Maharashtra has declined by 2550 in the year 2016, The highest number of suicides is found in Maharashtra. The lowest suicide rate of 100 is seen in the state of Punjab in 2015. But, this has increased to 222 in 2016. In 2016, the increase in suicides in Punjab was more than doubled in 2015.

As many as 6,351 farmers/cultivators committed suicide in 2016 across India, or 17 every day, according to the latest home ministry data.

Suicides declined 21% from 8,007, or 22 every day, in 2015, data show.

RATIO OF SUICIDE FARMER'S IN MAHARASHTRA

Maharashtra has an important role in the economic development of the country. But seeing the present situation of Maharashtra, Farmers' suicides are increasing. Farmer's suicide has become a serious problem. Over the past few years, Maharashtra has been topping the list of states in the country when it comes to farmers committing suicide. This is due to frequent



droughts, crop failure, and non-realisation of prices for agricultural products are some of the reasons which drive farmers to take the extreme step. The number of farmer suicides 2568 in 2014 and 2015 year the figure has touched 3228 by September end, according to data

released by the state government Vidharbha and Marathwada have reported maximum number of suicides in the state. Based on the following table, the nature of suicide of farmers in Maharashtra will be noticed.

Table No. 2
Farmer Suicides in Maharashtra (2001 to 2017)

Sr.No.	Year	Farmer Suicides
1	2001	3536
2	2002	3695
3	2003	3836
4	2004	4147
5	2005	3926
6	2006	4453
7	2007	4238
8	2008	3802
9	2009	2872
10	2010	3141
11	2011	3337
12	2012	3786
13	2013	3146
14	2014	2568
15	2015	3030
16	2016	2550
17	2017	2414
Total		58477
Avarage		3439.82
Sd		620.64
CV		18.04
CAGR		-0.02
MAX		4453
MIN		2414

Source: Press trust of India, livemint.com, nov.2017, NCRB,

In this table number 2 shows the year-wise number of suicide farmers in Maharashtra during the year 2001 to 2017.

The average number of farmer suicide farmers in Maharashtra during the year 2001 to 2017 was 58477. The coefficient of variance number of suicide farmers in Maharashtra was 18.04 percent. The compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of number of suicide farmers in Maharashtra was -0.2 percent period under consideration. It implies that the number of APL ration cards is more fluctuating. The maximum numbers of suicide farmers in Maharashtra have been recorded as 4453 in 2017-18. Whereas, The minimum number of suicide farmers in Maharashtra have been observed of 2414 in the year 2017. It implies that the number

suicide farmers in Maharashtra day by day more than, this situation is very by agricultural farmer.

REASONS FOR SUICIDE

Farmers' suicides are seen not only in Maharashtra but in many states of India. These include states like Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Punjab. However, the number of farmer's suicides is higher in Maharashtra. A review of the factors responsible for farmers' suicides can be taken as follows.

1) Indebtedness:

The main reason for the suicides of farmers is the bank's debt and the Lender loan. Since the rate of interest is high, installments of loans are not being paid



in time, so banks are repatriated for repayment, Lenders' threats Therefore, farmers commit suicides.

2) Crop failure: -

India is a agricultural land 65% of family depends on rain the probability of farming committing suicide is more during bad rain years. Inspite of the farmers work the production of the crop low which is also one of the basic cause of farmers suicide.

3) Ignorance of bank transactions:

Bank transactional ignorance, inadequate education, high confidence on the bank, In case of short-term lending, poor education, lack of education, high confidence in the bank, and low income due to nature, it is difficult to repay the loan. In such a situation, I do not know how to talk to the bank. It is not predictable from time to time due to lack of loan information. The ignorance about the bank has increased the number of suicides due to farmers.

3) Increase in cost of production:

India's agricultural sector requires huge manpower for plowing, excavation, soil maintenance, electricity bills, etc., requiring money for pesticides, cuttings, transportation and sale of products. In addition to these hybrid seeds, good quality and quantity of produce is also needed, which is not affordable to high cost and smallholder farmers. Increase in cost of production which forces to farmers to commit suicide.

4) Drought:

The main cause of farmers' suicides is drought. Because any farmer has been depend on nature. The uncertainty of nature hit farmers more in Maharashtra. So, the increase in farm yields and the number of suicides has increased.

5) Concern about girls' marriage:

If there is a girl in a farmer's house then she is worried about her marriage. Because dowry methods are still visible. Due to low income in the farm, the question of the marriage of the girl stands in front of the farmers. If you want to marry a girl, then you will have to pay a dowry, so where does the money come from? Sometimes, due to the dowry, the debt gets increased. This results in depression and suicide.

6) Low prices of farm product:

If the crop produced from agriculture does not get a good price, then the resultant production costs increase. The government does not seem to be paying attention to this vicious circle. Nobody has tried to fix the prices based on the cost of the agricultural production. It would be seen that in the last twenty years the prices of the farm product have relatively dropped as compare to the prices of other product.

7) Addiction:

Some farmers have many types of addiction due to debt marketability. So farmers commit suicides due to increased debt.

8) New changes:

New hybrid seeds, pesticides and agricultural cultivation technologies make farming easier and production has increased greatly for green revolution and new technology. But these technologies and innovations are so expensive and affordable to the poor and underprivileged farmers.

9) Other Causes:

The development of agriculture has reduced due to different reasons for lack of management, lack of workers, shortage of funds, shortage of water, water management. All these things attracted heavy diseases and turn them to die.

SUGGESTIONS

Following measures can be suggested to reduce the suicides of farmers.

1. Providing loans to small landholder's at low interest rates.
2. Availing loan to farmers through the bank without any mortgage.
3. Assuring the crop insurance through the bank.
4. Providing loans through easy installments by arranging a separate loan for medical and marriage purpose.
5. Reducing the interest rate on educational loans for farming class.
6. Informing family heads and members of the family while giving loan by the bank.
7. Farmers should be motivated to repay their debts in humanistic approach.
8. Need of effective implementation of all the government schemes for farmers and agricultural development.
9. Provision of irrigation facility, fertilizers, seeds and cultivation equipments by government.
10. Strict Penal action on private many lenders.
11. Establishment of Counseling Centers for addiction and frustration.

CONCLUSION

Without the development of agriculture, the country's development is impossible. Because, india is a farming country. But if the country thinks, farmers are committing suicide. Farmers' suicide is a grave problem



in India's dream of world power. Maharashtra is an important state in India's development. The extent of suicides is higher in Maharashtra in the case of present India's status. Several schemes are implemented for the development of agriculture but still there is no development of agriculture. Many NGOs in Maharashtra are working for the development of agriculture. Marathwada, Vidarbha is the most suicidal farmer. This is the reason for shortage of water, debt servicing, dowry system etc. Therefore it is important to implement many schemes for the development of agriculture. If the country's development is not possible without the development of agriculture and to achieve the development of the country, then Maharashtra should reduce the number of suicides among other states. Without the development of the farmers, the country will not be developed.

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