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The socio-economic, psychological and situational causes which compelled the farmers to committed suicide and post suicide consequences faced by farmers families in Nanded district

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Abstract

Present investigation conducted in Nanded district in Marathwada region of Maharashtra state. From this district four talukas were selected based on considerable farmer suicide cases. Twenty seven villages were selected randomly based on considerable farmer suicide cases. Forty victims were selected randomly for the study. The ex-post facto research design was used for the study. The data were collected with help of pretested interview schedule from the victim's households as per their convenience at their home. The statistical methods and test such as frequency, percentage, mean, standard deviation and correlation of coefficient were used for analysis of data. In case of socio-psycho risk factor of suicide majority of victims 95.00 percent commit suicide due to failure of crop due to drought / lack of supportive irrigation as agriculture related cause, 85.00 percent victims commit suicide due to increased indebtedness as economical cause, 60.00 percent causes for suicide was addiction of victim. In case of post suicide consequences on the majority of victim's family was 82.00 percent increase outstanding debt as an economical impact, 95.00 percent family member went in depression as a psychological impact.

Keywords: Victim, suicide

1. Introduction

Farmer suicide has turned out to be a major socio-economic concern in India that has resulted in profound implications on the quality life of farmers. According to the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (UNCSD), one farmer committed suicide for every 32 minutes between 1997 and 2005 in India. India's suicide rate of 11 per lakh people is roughly the global average. The highest rates are in Greenland (83 per lakh), Lithuania (38 per lakh) and South Korea (28.5 per lakh). China's rate (22.2 per lakh) is double India's. The Indian rate is lower than in rich countries with big welfare systems and very few farmers: Belgium (19), France (14.7), US (12.6), Japan (12.3), Germany (12.5) and the UK (11.8).

Table 1: No of farmers' suicides in India between 1995-2016

Year	Male	Female	Total	Year	Male	Female	Total
1995	8295	2425	10720	2006	14664	2396	17060
1996	NA	NA	NA	2007	14509	2123	16632
1997	11229	2393	13622	2008	14145	2051	16196
1998	12986	3029	16015	2009	14951	2417	17368
1999	13278	2804	16082	2010	13592	2372	15964
2000	13501	3102	16603	2011	12071	1956	14027
2001	13708	2576	16284	2012	11951	1803	13754
2002	15308	2663	17971	2013	10489	1283	11772
2003	14701	2463	17164	2014	10889	1471	12360
2004	15929	2312	18241	2015	11028	1574	12602
2005	14972	2158	17131	2016	10026	1432	11458

Source: ncrb.nic.in (2017)

Total of 319026 have committed suicide in India since 1995 to 2016. Suicide incidence were reported from Maharashtra, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Panjab, kerala, Chhattisgarh, M.P., west Bengal and also other but Maharastra is leading state according to NCRB report. The highest suicide cases was noted (18241) in year 2004, lowest suicide cases was noted (8295) in year 1995.

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In Maharashtra the number of farmers who committed suicide in various districts is not same. Despite of Raigad, Ratnagiri and Sindhudurg districts of Konkan region, all other districts of Maharashtra are facing issue of farmers suicide.

According to NCRB in Maharashtra state during last twenty one years period the incidences of suicide of farmers were increased tremendously. Since from January 1995 to

December 2016 total 69053 farmers committed suicide. It is also observed that in total number of suicides figure there is slight variation was noted.

Below table of farmers suicide of Maharashtra, shows an increasing trend. The highest (4453) suicide cases were noted in year 2006, where as lowest (1083) suicide cases noted in year 1995.

Table 2: Number of farmer's suicide in Maharashtra 1995-2016

Year	Male	Female	Total	Year	Male	Female	Total
1995	978	105	1083	2006	4111	342	4453
1996	1767	214	1981	2007	3968	270	4238
1997	1600	317	1917	2008	3573	229	3802
1998	1938	471	2409	2009	2692	180	2872
1999	2050	373	2423	2010	2947	194	3141
2000	2492	530	3022	2011	3093	244	3337
2001	2945	591	3536	2012	3483	303	3786
2002	3155	540	3695	2013	3020	126	3146
2003	3381	455	3836	2014	3726	278	4004
2004	3799	348	4147	2015	2492	392	3228
2005	3638	288	3926	2016	2050	1002	3052

Source: ncrb.nic.in (2017)

Farmer suicide in Marathwada region have gone exponentially in the last eight year. Total of 4516 farmers committed suicide in Marathwada since 2010 to 2017. In the year 2018 (221) farmers committed suicide between 1 January to 25 March. The highest suicide cases were noted (1133) in

year 2015, lowest suicide cases noted (169) in year 2011. Maximum suicide incidence were reported from Beed district it contribute 27.30 percent out of total suicide in Marathwada. Brief profile of farmer's suicide in Marathwada is given below;

Table 3: District wise number of farmers' suicides in Marathwada during 2010-2017

Dist.	Year									Total
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017		
Beed	79	73	91	98	152	301	222	207	1223	
Jalana	04	06	06	08	32	83	76	91	306	
Nanded	55	33	39	46	118	190	180	153	814	
Latur	04	04	00	03	44	106	116	94	371	
Aurangabad	02	00	02	04	56	144	151	139	498	
Parbhani	22	23	35	17	70	104	98	125	494	
Hingoli	02	05	03	02	31	41	49	56	189	
Osmanabad	23	25	22	29	71	164	161	126	621	
Total	191	169	198	207	574	1133	1053	991	4516	

Source: Divisional commissioner office, Aurangabad.

A largest number of farmers had committed suicide in Nanded district. Out of total suicide in Marathwada, Nanded district contributing 18.02 percent (814) suicide. The highest suicide cases were noted (190) in year 2015, lowest suicide cases were noted (33) in year 2011. Maximum suicide incidences were reported from Kinvat, Kandhar, Loha, and Mukhed talukas. Brief profile of farmer suicide in Nanded district given below;

Table 4: Year wise number of farmers' suicides in Nanded district during 2010-2017

Year	Eligible cases	Ineligible cases	Total
2010	32	23	55
2011	20	13	33
2012	19	20	39
2013	20	26	46
2014	78	40	118
2015	146	44	190
2016	118	62	180
2017	116	37	153
Total	549	265	814

Source: Divisional commissioner office, Aurangabad

2. Material and methods

2.1 Sample and sampling plan

The sample and sampling procedure to be adopted for this research study was given below;

2.2 Selection of district

Out of eight districts from the Marathwada region. The present study was conducted in Nanded district for the study based on considerable suicide cases of the farmers.

2.3 Selection of talukas

The present study was conducted in four tahsils namely Kandhar, Loha, Mukhed, and Kinvat were selected randomly from Nanded district of Marathwada region.

2.4 Selection of Villages

Twenty seven villages were selected from four tahsils of Nanded district based on considerable suicide cases of the farmers. The list of villages along with no. of victims is presented in Annexure –II.

2.5 Selection of Respondents

In this study respondents were the households of selected victim those who committed suicide during 2015 to 2017 and had declared as a legal victims by district level committee headed by Collector of the Nanded district. The time period 2015 to 2017 was selected purposively as in this period maximum numbers of suicides were occurred in Nanded districts of Marathwada.

Before sampling researcher had contacted personally to the Collector Office of Nanded district and obtained the complete list of farmers those who committed suicide during 2015 to 2017. In all, there were 523 total suicide cases in Nanded district. From the list of 523 suicide cases, researcher had selected 40 victims by proportionate method of random sampling. Name of selected victims along with their village and tahsils presented in Annexure III.

2.6 Development of interview schedule

Interview schedule was prepared as per the objectives set in for the investigation. Every case regarding construction of statement, purpose, content and sequence was considered while preparing the interview schedule. In first part of the interview schedule questions related to primary information, personal, socio-economic, situational and socio-psychological variables were included and in second part, questions related to socio-psycho risk factors of suicide, consequences and suggestion for avoiding suicides were included.

2.7 Pre testing of interview schedule

The interview schedule developed was pre-tested for accuracy, simplicity and predictability. Considering all aspect of objective, interview schedule was pre- tested with household who lost their family member and who were belonging to other than selected sample. The data were observed and the difficult questions were modified for interview schedule as per experience of pre-test. In this way after pre-testing interview schedule was finalized.

2.8 Collection of data

As suicide is a sensitive social issue and thus the investigation has to be made with very guarded and careful manner, and without hurting the sentiments of the family. Data were collected by personal interview method with the help of structured interview schedule. Interview was conducted at

residence of victims so as to review over all situation of the family by researcher. In addition to personal interview, observations, discussions with family members and key informants of the respected village such as *Police Patil, Sarpanch, local leaders, other farmers* etc and also reviewing victims' actual records of institutional debts etc. were some used for data collection.

The data collection from those households who lost their family head or member was a very difficult and challenging task were performed by the researcher during the 21 January to 29 January 2018. While collecting information/data, researcher first collected all general information and lastly turns toward some specific responses. Total 40 victims households were interviewed from 27 villages of Four tehsil in Nanded district.

3. Results and discussion

3.1 The socio-economic, psychological and situational causes which compelled the farmers to committed suicide

The suicide is complex social and psychological phenomenon. Phal (2000) reported that the poverty, unemployment, loneliness, social and economic insecurity and conflicts in interpersonal relations are the important social factors contributing to suicide.

Where as psychologically, the suicide prone person experiences mental distress because of certain crisis situation. Hence in present research study researcher had identified certain social and psychological risk factors that are external to the individual victim that definitely help in devising policy guidelines.

'Socio-psycho risk factors of suicide' is the dependent variable in present research endeavor. In present research study it was assumed that the farmers those who have committed suicide in Marathwada region, their social and psychological web might not be sustainable. They may have many social and psychological problems. These problems had created an adverse impact on their well being and impair the quality of life. In this study socio-psycho risk factors of suicide refers the aggregation of different socio-psychological risk factors coexisted with an individual victim externally since from during last five years of suicide incidence. The same has been studied and the data has been presented in Table 5.

Table 5: Distribution of victims according to their identified Socio-psycho risk factors of suicides

S.N	Risk factors	Frequency	Percentage
A. Agriculture related			
1.	Failure of crops due to drought / lack of supportive irrigation	38	95.00
2.	Failure of crops due to hailstorm	00	00.00
3.	Failure of crops due to insect / disease	02	05.00
4.	Failure of crops due to less seed germination	01	02.50
5.	Failure of crops due to unseasonal rains	03	07.50
6.	Failure of dug open well or tube well	0	0
B. Indebtedness related			
1.	Increased indebtedness	34	85.00
2.	Torching by money lender for repayment of loan	15	37.50
3.	Recovery pressure from money lender	09	22.50
4.	Humiliation at public place by money lender	06	15.00
5.	Auction of assets / livestock / other household stocks	03	7.50
6.	Availment of non-agriculture loan	00	00.00
7.	Availment of loan from non-institutional sources	00	00.00
C. Social			
1.	Dowry	0	0
2.	Divorce	00	00.00
3.	Drop in socio-economic status	12	30.00

4.	Marriageable age of daughters / sisters	15	37.50
5.	Suicide of family member or any near pears	09	22.50
6.	Dispute with the family member / neighbor or others	03	7.50
7.	Death of the family member prior to suicide	01	02.50
8.	Chronic illness or handicapped persons in the family	11	27.50
9.	Involved of victims in criminal case	00	00.00
10.	Defeated in the civil cases	00	00.00
11.	Addictions of victim	24	60.00
12.	Extra marital affairs victims	00	00.00
13.	Extra marital affairs of victims family member	00	00.00
D. Psychological			
1.	Loneliness	18	45.00
2.	Behavioral changes in the victims before suicide	09	22.50

It is observed from Table 5 section- A shows various agriculture related risk factor of suicide. It was seen that 95.00 percent causes for suicide was failure of crop due to draught / lack of supportive irrigation, followed by 7.50 percent causes for suicide was failure of crop due to unseasonal rain, 5.00 percent cause for suicide was failure of crop due to insect and disease and 2.50 causes for suicide was failure of crop due to less seed germination.

Section –B shows various indebtedness related risk factors of suicide. It was seen that 85.00 percent causes for suicide was increased indebtedness, followed by 37.50 percent causes for suicide was torching by money lender for recovery of loan, 22.50 percent causes for suicide was recovery pressure by money lender, 15.00 percent causes for suicide was humiliation at public place by money lender and 7.50 percent causes for suicide was Auction of assets / livestock / other household stocks.

Section-C shows various social risk factors of suicide. It was seen that majorly 60.00 percent causes for suicide was addiction of victims, followed by 37.50 percent causes for suicide was marriageable age of daughter / sister, 30.00 percent causes for suicide was drop in socio-economic status, 27.50 percent causes for suicide was chronic illness or handicapped person in the family, 22.50 percent causes for suicide was suicide of family member or any near pear, 7.50 percent causes for suicide was dispute with the family member / neighbor or others and 2.50 percent causes for suicide was death of family member prior to suicide.

Section-D shows various psychological risk factors of suicide. It was seen that 45.00 percent psychological causes of suicide was loneliness, followed by 22.50 percent psychological causes of suicide was behavioral changes in the victims before suicide.

3.2 The post suicide consequences faced by farmers families

Suicide is a social phenomenon; it creates severe personal, social and economic consequences within family (Jacob 2006). In Marathwada farmers, who committed suicide were mostly the family heads and the main bread earner of the family members. The chronically brood agrarian crisis is wholly responsible for their spate of suicides and these suicides have been happened by and large due to low income level of the households and their deteriorating socio-economic status in the society. Though family head left from the severe agrarian crisis, it is very difficult for his family members to survive/ lives in the worst hit zone of marathwada. For many victims' spouse or many widows and their family members suicide is not about the dead, it is about the living and for them they soldiers on. Every moment of life has been a struggle for them. In our field survey we have identified various severe consequences or changes that occurred after

death of family head within the family and are recognized and intended by family members. The data pertaining to the identified consequences has been presented in four main heads as mentioned in Table 6.

Table 6: Distribution of victims' households according to their consequences

S. N	Consequences	Frequency	Percentage
A. Economical			
1	Discontinuation of agricultural activity	19	47.50
2	Discontinuation of allied business	05	12.50
3	Children of the victims had left the school	09	22.50
4	Children were sent to live with relatives	03	7.50
5	Postponement of child marriages	06	15.00
6	Dispute among family	03	7.50
7	Increase outstanding debt	33	82.50
8	Withdrawal of extra loan	16	40.00
9	Discontinuation of ill family member treatment	01	2.50
10	Land / livestock sold	07	17.50
11	Gold /jewelry sold	07	17.50
B. Social			
1	Disrepute in society	03	7.50
2	Break relationship by relatives	02	05.00
3	Barrier in girl marriage	01	02.50
C. Psychological			
1	Family member went in depression	38	95.00
2	Family member went neurotism	21	52.50
3	Developed a sense of hopelessness	19	47.50
4	Developed insecurity among family	14	35.00
5	Death of family member after suicide of victims	02	5.00
6	Loss of interest in work	35	87.50
7	Illness among family members	35	87.50

It is observed from table 6 section A various economical impact on victims family after his death such as 82.00 percent increase outstanding debt, 47.50 percent discontinuation of agricultural activity, 40.00 percent withdrawal of extra loan, 22.50 percent children of the victims had left the school, 17.50 percent sold gold/ jewelry, 17.50 percent sold land/ livestock, 15.00 percent postponement of child marriages, 12.50 percent discontinuation of allied business, 7.50 percent

occur dispute among family, 7.50 percent children were sent to live with relatives and 2.50 percent discontinuation of ill family member treatment.

Section B shows various social impact on victims family such as 7.50 percent disrepute in society, 5.00 percent break relationship by relatives, 2.50 percent barrier in girl marriages.

Section C shows various psychological impact on victims family such as 95.00 percent family member went in depression, 87.50 percent loss of interest in work, 87.50 percent illness among family members, 52.50 family member went neurotism, 47.50 percent developed a sense of hopelessness, 35.00 percent developed insecurity among family, 5.00 percent death of family member after suicide of victims.

4. Conclusions

4.1 The socio-economic, psychological and situational causes which compelled the farmers to committed suicide

In present study it was seen that major causes for suicide was failure of crop, increased indebtedness, addiction of alcohol.

4.2 The post suicide consequences faced by farmers families

It is observed from the study that various impact on victims family after his death such as increase outstanding debt, discontinuation of agricultural activity, withdrawal of extra loan children of the victims had left the school, sold gold/ jewelry, sold land/ livestock, postponement of daughter marriages, discontinuation of allied business, occur dispute among family, children were sent to live with relatives, discontinuation of ill family member treatment, family member went in depression, loss of interest in work, illness among family members, family member went neurotism, and developed insecurity among family.

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