



Review Of Research



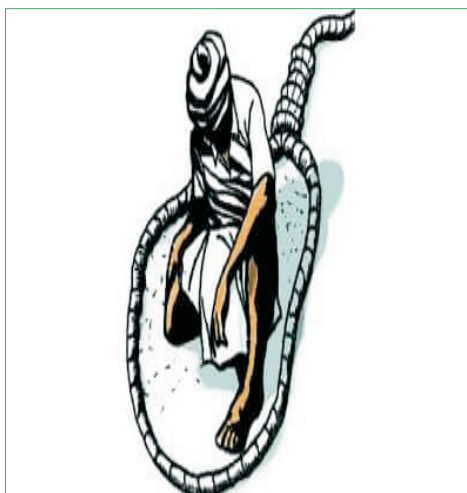
A STUDY OF FARMERS' SUICIDES AND ITS REMEDIES IN MAHARASHTRA

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ABSTRACT:

Agriculture provides the principal means of livelihood for over 60% of India's population. Despite a steady decline in its share to the gross Domestic Product (GDP) agriculture remains the largest economic sector in the country. Low and volatile growth rates under the sector and the recent escalation of an



agrarian crisis in several parts of the country pose a threat not only to national food security but also to the economic well being of the nation as a whole.

KEY WORDS: India's population ,gross Domestic Product (GDP) , national food security.

INTRODUCTION:

It is now habitual to hear the cases of farmer's suicide in Maharashtra. Despite of portrayal of farming as a healthy and happy way of life, agriculture sector experiences one of the highest numbers of suicide. In the context of this background, an attempt has been made to discuss the serious problem of farmers' suicides and its remedies in Maharashtra.

STATEMENT OF PROBLEM:

For last few years every other day we read the news of farmers committing suicides. The number of farmers who have committed suicides since 1997 has crossed 1 lakhs. In this context the actual problems being faced are to be understood and analyzed. Innovative remedies have to be

thought of which are to be implemented with sincerity by the Government and the implementing agencies, along with putting in place ways to rehabilitate the affected farmers. There is old saying in Maharashtra ""Farmer takes the birth in debt and die in the same condition". This was the position of farmers before independence and it still continue after 60 years of independence. In this study an attempt has been made to study the problem of farmer's suicide in Maharashtra and the necessary remedies to overcome this problem. Therefore the title of the present research paper is "A Study of Farmers' Suicides and its Remedies in Maharashtra"

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

1. To study the present situation of farmers suicide in Maharashtra.
2. To study the problems of farmers in Maharashtra.
3. To find out the causes of farmers suicides in Maharashtra.
4. To suggest necessary remedies to overcome the problems of farmer's suicide.

METHODOLOGY ADOPTED FOR STUDY:

The present research mostly depends upon the secondary data. Various Books, Journals, Articles and internet websites have been accessed to collect the information for study

IMPORTANCE OF STUDY:

Farmer's suicide is not only other reported in Vidarbha region of Maharashtra, but also from Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Kerala and Karnataka. The problem of suicide is not only reported in India, but also reported in different parts of the world like England and Wales. But the problem of farmer's suicide has become very serious in India especially in Maharashtra. There are several reasons for farmer's suicide such as Indebtedness, Personal Reasons, Rising Cost of Cultivation, Repeated crop failures, Lack of Cultivated Cash Crops etc.

Innovative remedies have to be sought of which are to be implemented with sincerity by the Government and the implementing agencies, along with putting in place ways to rehabilitate the affected farmers. Central and State Government have announced the relief packages to the suicide affected Families in Maharashtra. It is encouraging to see that our country is one of the fastest growing economies in the world. There is healthy competition in almost all the sectors leading to cost reduction. The present paper is therefore discussing this serious problem of farmer's suicide in Maharashtra, its causes and necessary remedies to overcome this problem. It will also discuss the recommendations of various committees appointed on this issue.

Operational Definitions of Key Terms:

1. Farmer:

Farmer is a person engaged in agriculture, raising living organisms for food or raw materials. The term usually applies to people who do some combination of raising field crops, orchards, vineyards, poultry, or other livestock

2. Agro Produce:

Agro produce are all the products obtained from plants, animals, microorganisms and their products as a result of agricultural activities. Agricultural products includes agricultural crops, livestock such as poultry and poultry products, dairy and dairy products, fishery and fishery products, forestry and forestry products, horticulture and horticultural products.

3. Cultivation:

Cultivation, also known as tilling or soil refinement, is the act of digging into or cutting up an existing soil bed to better prepare it for planting, whether using a tractor, rot tiller, or hand tools like a shovel or soil fork.

Present Condition of farmer's suicides in Maharashtra:

The first suicide in Maharashtra was occurred in 19th March 1986 in village Chil-Gavan in Yawatmal District. The name of this farmer was Sahebrao Sheshrao. 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 cotton seeds. They could also not get remunerative price for their produce. To commit suicide is not normal but generally occurred for farmers due to fear of pressure of moneylenders e.g. if they fail to repay the loan their land will be forcibly taken away. Their economic condition in many cases changes to such an extent that the farmers are unable to face the society. In this situation of loneliness and in absence of any institutional or social mechanism to fall back upon, farmers were forced to commit suicide. For farmers to come out of the stressful situation a system to address the various issues discussed in the earlier paragraphs have to be evolved through an institutional mechanism with necessary arrangement for review and follow up. A rehabilitation programme which addresses repayment of overdue interest, supply of quality inputs for next crop, insurance against natural calamity, opportunity of supplementary income through non farm activities, provision of forward linkage such as marketing and storage, extension services, etc. has to be devised and implemented. The suicides were due to indebtedness. The statistics regarding farmer's suicide in Maharashtra for 3 year period is shown by following table:

Table No. 1: Farmer's suicides in Maharashtra during last 5 years

Year	No. of Farmers' suicides
2011	3,968
2012	3,786
2013	3,146
2014	5,650
2015	3,228

Source: - NCRB Report

The above table shows the seriousness of problem of farmers' suicide in Maharashtra.

Main Reasons for Farmer's Suicide in Maharashtra:

1. High rate of repayment of loan:

Increasing amount of loan i.e. indebtedness and high rate of repayment of loan is very important reason of farmers suicide. This loan is mainly from private moneylenders who are teasing the farmers for recovery of loan.

2. Low capital:

Farmers have low capital backing and can't invest much for development. It is very difficult to farmers to use other sources of capital.

3. High cost of Cultivation, seed and fertilizers:

Nowadays because of inflation, the costs of cultivation, seeds and fertilizers are increasing on

immense scale. This in turn is increasing the cost of production of crops.

4. Drought, High Rainfall and other natural calamities:

These are very common causes of crop failure which results in heavy financial loss to farmers. Natural incidents are not in the hands of farmers. Drought, High rainfall and other natural calamities are unavoidable and can't be controlled. As a result of which, he is trapped in a vicious circle of poverty.

5. Lack of Guaranteed Price:

Sometime it is found that the government's approach towards farmers is pessimistic. As a result farmers could not get the guaranteed price for their product. In case of overproduction, prices of agro product decline on immense scale. However farmers do not get guaranteed price by the government which results in .

6. Physiological Effect on Mind:

The incidence of suicide reported in a nearby village also affects their mentality and they also tend to suicide.

7. Absence of adequate social support infrastructure:

Farmers do not get any kind of moral and social support from various sections of the society. It leads them the feeling of loneliness which divert them to suicide.

8. Lack of proper irrigation facilities:

Indian farmers are heavily dependent on monsoons. They don't have any source for proper irrigation farming. The reports say that 58% of farmers having

REMEDIES AND MEASURES TO OVERCOME THE PROBLEM:

1. Provision of Crop Insurance and other facilities:

State government should provide compensation for any crop failure, loss due to draught or any other natural calamities. In the cases of natural calamities, the losses should be immediately settled. Scientific training should be provided to farmers regarding rearing of crops and other activities. Marginal farmers should be provided facilities like subsidy for seeds, fertilizers and other equipments.

2. Creation of Farmer's Bank

There is need of creation separate farmers' bank at central level as well as at state level for providing organized fiancé to farmers. It should work in support to NABARD and cooperative banks in Maharashtra

3. Minimum support price to each crop

Farmers should be given minimum support price for their production so that they can be guaranteed by minimum income.

4. Providing warehousing and other facilities to farmers

Farmers should be provided with adequate warehousing facilities. Efforts should be made to create markets more effective for agricultural produce. Chain of Selling Centers should be strengthened and efforts should be made to avoid agents. Farmers should be provided more health, medical and other facilities to make them aware regarding government's policy for benefit of farmers. Every state should be encouraged to establish 'Farmers Welfare Funds'. Out of this fund farmers can get aid for marriages, illness and festivals

5. Provision of sufficient fund in Annual Budget:

The policy of both central and state government should be in favor of farmers. Sufficient provisions should be made in annual budget for development of agricultural sector.

6. Encouragement for involvement in agro based activities:

farmers should be encouraged to engage themselves in agro based activities such as dairy,

poultry farming, sheep rearing, horticulture, sericulture etc. so that they can compensate their losses arisen from agricultural activities

7. Restructuring of Marketing Facilities:

Arrangements of marketing /forward linkages /contract farming should be made by the government to sell their produce at remunerative prices.

CONCLUSION:

India is agro based country, and farmers are our pride. But it is tragedy nowadays that farmers are attempting suicide on immense scale. The number of farmer's suicide is increasing in all states of India but this problem has become very serious in the state of Maharashtra and in Maharashtra vidarbh is main region where this number is large. Hence it is now a time to take necessary steps to eliminate such tendency of farmers. But if above facilities are given to farmers they may achieve self-sufficiency in agricultural Production. There is need for major review of agricultural policy to meet the changing needs of both producers and consumers.

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