



PROBLEMS OF SUICIDE GROUND NUT FARMERS IN ANANTAPURAMU DISTRICT OF RAYALASEEMA REGION.

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Abstract

The large number of suicides by farmers in various parts of the country is perhaps the most distressing phenomenon observed in India over the last decade. These suicides, which reached almost epidemic proportions in certain pockets of the country, were first picked up and reported by an alert press around the late 1990s. The public concern that these reports led to forced some of the state governments like Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra to set up enquiry commissions to go into this phenomenon in the respective states. The date bases that either the press or these enquiry commissions depended on were somewhat uncoordinated and sporadic: they were either impressionistic, or based on data collated by activist sources like the kisan sabhas, or small scale surveys conducted by the enquiry commissions. While the extremely useful role that the press and the enquiry commissions played in informing the public about this distressing situation has to be recognized, these efforts could always be dismissed and often were dismissed as the products of fevered imagination of some journalists and social activists. So, there was a need to probe the issue by utilizing data source which would provide a comprehensive, nation wised picture. The present study cover and taken up empirical data and analysis on problems of ground nut farmers who have committed suicide in Anantapuramu district of Rayalaseema Region of Andhra Pradesh.

Key words: *Agricultural farmers, Suicides.*

Introduction

The central and state governments are obliged to prevent farmer suicides at the outset; because of, it cannot escape legal obligation under national statutes and international human right law to protect the right to life and security of its citizens. Insufficient economic resources, unstable economic flows and asset losses have ultimately led as central in the analysis of farmer's suicides. Because if the acute indebtedness, famers are unable to live a life of dignity, exercise vital freedoms towards greater enhancement of life chances and leading a fulfilling life. India however by its constitution of 1949 is duty bound to protect its citizen from hunger and guard the right to an adequate means of livelihood with references to economic. Social and cultural values laid down in the constitution towards securing justice in all respects, social and cultural values laid down in the constitution towards securing justice in all respects, including social security for the agricultural sector. The fundamental rights guaranteed in the supreme law of India like, right to life in article 21 of Indian constitution and equal protection of law have been violated that consequently impose hindrances upon human life and to preserve human dignity. The fundamental state policy of India again requires the state to promote the welfare of the people by promoting a social order in which social, economic and political justice is informed in all institutions of life. In addition, India is a state party to multiple international human rights treaties and has consistently been put on notice by United Nations bodies (e.g. human rights council) that the human rights of farmers are at stake.



The government of India has appointed many committees to investigate farmer suicides and to suggest immediate initiatives. These have recommends that all the programmes and institutions that have been set up in the past to help farmers should work properly. Unfortunately, the failure of thee schemes is intimately tied to the corruption and bureaucracy which pervades most government programmes.

The government as mentioned on its part has not instead checks and balances to protect the interests of the farmers. In Maharashtra and Karnataka the state governments different special relief packages to arrange for fresh capital from banks to improve farm productivity. Bring desirable changes in cropping pattern, and to provide financial assistance. Te governments approach however I both states has been reformist and welfare oriented, in that they fail to recognize the need for major review of agriculture and policy shifts to accommodate formers interest as they compete internationally for remunerative prices and price stability . in Andhra Pradesh three are a number of positive measures instituted by state government, including the relief package for families of farmers who have fanners some breathing space; the effort to increase institutional credit; a new seed bill to improve regulation of private seed supply, and so no those have certainly alleviated the worst effects of the crisis for the fanners. The agrarian crisis is so abysmal and extensive in nature, that in these positive measures, the conditions of farmers remain precarious.

The role of state is one of double stand while local state joined hands to the big landlords and MNCs, Carol, Monsanto, and Syngenta. Local level relationship between state and society becomes exploitative before and after the crisis. The Karnataka government introduced an amendment to the land reforms that would allow anybody to purchase any amount of land in the name of public interest (even though this corridor projects against to purchase any amount of land thousands of acres to the big companies) and corridor projects including multinational importing new biotechnology. Not Indian mainstream national media also tended to ignore the massive suicide vicious cycle owing to the corporate exploitation by multinational agribusinesses

Research Gaps

The studies outside India have identified farming as a high stress profession that is associated with a higher suicide rate than the general population. This is particularly true among small scale farmers and after periods of economic distress. Their review claims a wide range of reasons behind farmer's suicide globally including mental health issues, physical environment, family problems, economic stress and uncertainties. The studies not concentrated on the measures takes or to be taken for the prevention of farmer's suicides. The literature which addresses farmer suicides in India is focused mostly on listing socioeconomic causes and state- level policy recommendations rather than addressing the mechanisms behind the rise in suicides. The Indian studies reviewed above were made during the crisis period and were neither intensive nor extensive and were made to grasp the crux of the crisis and to tenable the government to rush with intervention to stem the problem. These studies have examined relatively smaller samplers and brought out generalizations. The very fact occurrence of farmers' suicides even now, even after these studies and interventions, only point that these studies had not grasped through reality of farmers' suicide in its totality and the governmental interventions that were initiated had not stemmed the suicides. These studies have also not gone into the issue of how the families of the farmers are coping up with suicides of their bread winners. Any effective intervention should not only try to prevent any further suicide among the farmers and also suicides among the family members of the farmers. In a country, where more than 70 per cent of the population, are dependent on agriculture, suicide of the farmers cannot be ignored as individual's response to distress. Looking large in the coming decades is the agriculture running into much more



deeper crises owing to economic and ecological factors, in the coming decades, there is a need for a deeper understanding of the suicides of the farmers and also the coping up mechanisms of the families of the farmers. Hence, the present study is focusing on only ground nut farmers because of large size of the farmers in Anantapuramu district have been cultivating ground.

Objectives of the Study

1. To make an analytical study of farmers suicide in Indian agriculture sector
2. To analyse the problems of suicide ground nut farmers in the study area

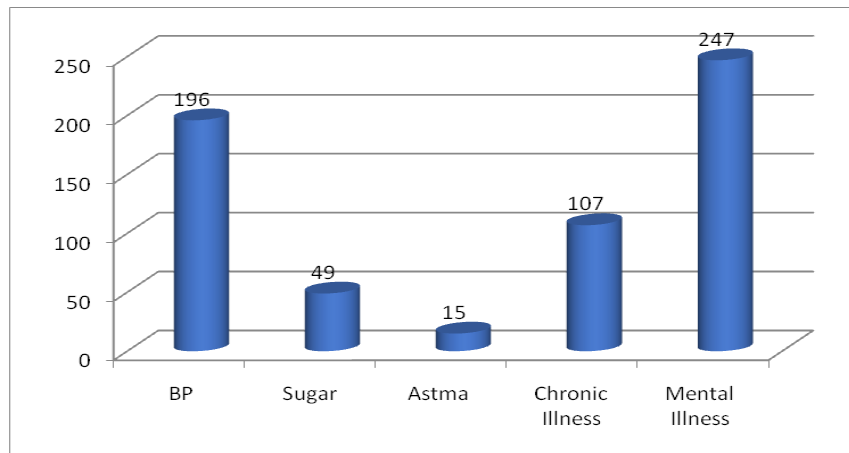
Sample Design: For in depth study on the role of central and state governments to mitigate farmer’s suicides multi-stage random sampling method was followed. In the first stage all four drought ridden district in Anantapuramu district of Rayalaseema Region. In the second stage the marginal, small, medium and big farmer’s family members who have cultivated ground nut crop have selected on the basis of landholdings deceased farmers. The third stage was concerned with the selection of farmer’s family members. It is decided to select 100 farmers from each category from this district. In all 400 farmer’s family members were selected for an in-depth study.

Sources of Data: For evaluating the specific objectives of the study, necessary primary data have been obtained from the families selected suicide farmers, through personal interviews with the help of well-structured interview schedule. The data collected from the respondents includes general information about suicide farmers, their resources position, land holding, cropping pattern, debt condition, sources of income, asset position, sources of credit, purpose of credit, mental status of person, addictions, if any, reasons for suicide and any other information family wished to share etc. The researcher has interacted with the next of kin of the deceased in the family and also other members of the family. The method of personal interview has adopted to ensure that the data obtained from the respondents were relevant, comprehensive and reasonably correct and precise. Secondary date on the number of suicide case in the districts will be collected from the collect orates and joint director of agriculture office of Anantapuramu district of Andhra Pradesh. The data relating to total number of cases reported, cases eligible for compensation and actual compensation paid were collected from national crime records bureau, New Delhi.

Table 1, Various diseased by the victim farmers

S.No	Deceased	Yes	No
1	BP	196	204
2	Sugar	49	351
3	Astma	15	385
4	Chronic Illness	107	293
5	Mental Illness	247	153

Source: Field Survey



The table focus on examine the general physical condition and the health condition of the victims. The data as shown in table 1 that 196 sample victim have BP, followed by 107 sample victim have chronic illness, 247 have mental illness and little percentage of victim farmers have sugar and asthma in the study area.

Table 2, Influenced factors of suicide of selected farmers

S.No	Statement	Yes	No	Total
1	Was there any family history of suicide	24 (6.00)	376 (94.00)	400 (100)
2	Was there any same case of suicides in your relatives	76 (19.00)	324 (81.00)	400 (100)
3	Was same case of suicide of the friend	139 (35.00)	261 (65.00)	400 (100)

Source: Field Survey

Table 2 reveals that the victim family, or their relatives or their friend or its self committed suicide in previous period is presented and analysed. It clearly shows that 24 victim family members said their opinion that there is a situation is occurred in previous period in their families, 76 ground farmers family members opined the suicide cases was not seen in their relatives, rest of victim farmers said that, the same case of suicide of the friends of the deceased farmers have seen by the victim farmers in the study area.

It clearly concluded that majority of the victim farmer have observed surrounding people, motivated by self and then they will committed suicide.

Table 3, Problems of selected farmers of committed suicide N=400

S.No	Problems	Frequency	Percentage
1	Personal or Psychological	48	12.00
2	Heavy debt	246	61.50
3	Health problem	25	6.25
4	Pressure from bankers	176	44.00
5	Pressure from creditors	343	86.00



6	Unbearable interest charges	277	69.00
7	Repeated crop failure	376	94.00
8	Repeated failure of borewells	249	62.00
9	Insult and shame among the relatives and friends	42	10.50
10	Chronic consumption of alcohol	57	14.00

Source: Field Survey

India is an agrarian country with around 60 per cent of its people depending directly and indirectly upon agriculture. Farmers suicide account for 11.2 per cent of all suicides in India. In this direction the researcher have offered a number of conflicting reasons for farmer suicides such as high debt burdens, health problems, pressure from bankers unbearable interest rates from the private people, repeated crop failure, repeated failure of borewells, insult and shame among the relatives and friends, and chronic consumption of alcoholic in the Rayalaseema region of Andhra Pradesh.

It is evident from the study that 94 per cent of the sample victim ground nut farmers have facing from repeated crop failure, 86 per cent of victim wife said that they have pressure by creditors, 69 per cent of the victim farmers were faced high interest rate from the creditors, 62 per cent of the victim farmers borewell were failure repeatedly, heavy debt is also one of the cause for suicide of farmer and it represent 61.50 per cent, pressure from bankers (44 per cent), chronic consumption of alcohol (14 per cent) Personal or psychological problems (12 per cent) Insult and shame among the relatives and friends (10.50 per cent) and some of said that due to health problems (6.25 per cent) respectively.

It is clearly concluded that majority of ground nut farmers, who are committed to suicide due to repeated crop failure, pressure from creditors, high interest charges and failure of borewell in the study area. It is shows that the victim farmers don't taken any suggestions from agriculture officers, geologist for preventing failure of crops and borewells in the study, once taken right decision on above issues, every farmers can have safe zone because of they are invest highest amount on both issues.

Table 4, Type of suicide by the selected ground nut farmers

S.No	Type of suicide	Frequency	% to total
1	Hanging	115	29.00
2	Consumption of Pesticides	256	64.00
3	Drowning in the water	29	7.00
	Total	400	100

Source: Field

It can be observed from table 4, the ground nut farmers in Rayalaseema region 64 per cent o them had chosen consumption of pesticide to take away their lives. It was only 29 per cent of select victim farmers hanged itself. Only 7 per cent of the victim farmers who had chosen to die by jumping in to water. The deprecation to die and the frustration in their lives had made them to resole to take their lives leaving behind their loved ones. They all chose sure and instantaneous method to take away their lives.



Table 5, Particulars of debt amount of selected victim farmers

S.No	Debt amount	Frequency	Percentage
1	>3lakhs	177	44.00
2	3-5 lakhs	149	37.00
3	5 lakhs and above	74	19.00
	Total	400	100

Source: Field Survey

Glancing at the amount of data accumulated by the farmers is table the date shows that the when they had failed to repay invited heckling taunting from the renders who kept on demanding the repayment these farmers being poor simple and sensitive felt deprived of repayment these social esteem in the village and if killed a them more than the loan itself. In the absence of the institutional credit the farmers had to approach money lenders in most of the cases the input suppliers themselves gave the credit, were pressing the farmers to repay. Added to the misery of the farmers was the failure of monsoon rain sin successive years. The accumulating debt and interest drove these farmers desperate to find solace in death. The bank credit policy changed as part of the structured adjustment resulted in stinking of credit and farm loans spelt havoc to the farming community in a drought prone place like Rayalaseema region of Andhra Pradesh.

The debt incurred by the farmers of Rayalaseema Region as presented table 5 shows that the debt incurred by the farmers were mostly below 3 lakhs for most of them the sense of status loss experienced in the village seemed to have killed their self pride. The money lenders subjected them to shame, abuse and heckling for the non-payment of loans confiscated their livestock, and it had caused in them a sense of irreparable damage to their pride as a respectable farmers. These farmers who are mostly simple, docile sensitive easily became emotional realizing their helpless conditions.

Conclusions

The failure of government to initiate alternative employment and income generation programmers in draught affected areas increasing the dependency of farmers on agriculture as the sole source of income. According to the results from the above shows that, there is no much generating income through various governmental programmes especially in farmers. Hence, the government will initiate and implement better policies for reducing .

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