CHAPTER II
METODOLOGY

The present study on ‘Suicidal Tendencies Among Farmers of Dharwad District – A Study’ is based on the data collected from different sources like visiting the families of victims in different villages of Dharwad District; District Crime Records Bureau Dharwad, State Crime Records Bureau of Bangalore, Joint Director of Agriculture Dharwad, Commissionerate of Agriculture Bangalore and also from the libraries of reputed institutions.

A pilot survey was conducted by visiting the District Head Quarters offices in Dharwad specially the offices of the Deputy Commissioner, the Superintendent of Police and also the Joint Director of Agriculture. The preliminary visits were also made to the offices of Taluka Tahasildar, Office of the Circle Inspector of Police, and Assistant Director of Agriculture. The contacts were established with the office bearers of District and Taluka Rait Sangh, members and office bearers of youth club in the villages, senior farmers at the district, taluka and at different villages’ level.

The present study is designed to understand the severity of the problem of farmers’ suicides in Dharwad District. The data on farmers suicide was collected from the year 2003-2010 covering 75 cases in five taluks of the district.

Methodology adopted in the present study cover the following;

1. Profile of Dharwad District
2. Objectives
3. Hypothesis
4. Design of Research Method
5. Statistical Tools Adopted in the Analysis of Data
Table 2.1: Reported Cases of Farmer Suicides in Dharwad District from 2003-04 to 2009-10

<table>
<thead>
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<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dharwad</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>04</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>03</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Navalgund</td>
<td>05</td>
<td>02</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>03</td>
<td>01</td>
<td></td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hubli</td>
<td>03</td>
<td>01</td>
<td></td>
<td>01</td>
<td>04</td>
<td>02</td>
<td>02</td>
<td>13</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kundgol</td>
<td>06</td>
<td>02</td>
<td></td>
<td>01</td>
<td>04</td>
<td>03</td>
<td>03</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kalghatagi</td>
<td>03</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>01</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>09</td>
<td>02</td>
<td>04</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>09</td>
<td>07</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Department of Agriculture Government of Karnataka.

Figure 2.1: Number of Suicides by Formers in Dharwad District from 2003-04 to 2009-10

The information was obtained through structured schedule to analyze the social factors and economic reasons prior to the event in the family. In order to obtain first hand information of the victim’s families the house hold visit of each family was made. The report from the police records was supplemented with the information obtained by the Department of Agriculture, Government of Karnataka.
1. LOCATION OF RESEARCH AREA

Dharwad is one of the major districts located in the Northern part of Karnataka state. The district lies on East longitude 75° – 20 and 75° – 00 and North Latitude 15° – 15 and 15° – 35. It is bordered by Belgaum district on the Northern side, Haveri district on the Southern side, Gadag district on the Eastern side and Utter Kannada district on the Western side.

1.1 Area

The district comprises of five talukas namely Dharwad, Hubli, Navalgund, Kalghatagi and Kundagol. The total area of the district has come down to only 4763 square kilometers after the reorganization of the district in 1997. The district accounts for 2.22 percent of the state’s total area. Kalghatgi taluka of the district lies in Malnad area and the Hubli, Kundgol and Navalgund taluks are in the plains.

1.2 Agro – Climatic Conditions

The district has a total land area of 427329 hectares of which 362874 hectares are cultivable. The irrigated land in the district is 43569 hcs. This is a little over 10 percent of the total area of land. Western parts of Dharwad and Kalghatgi talukas come under Malnad area. Crops like Paddy and Sugar cane grown here. The traditional belt of the district comprises eastern parts of the Dharwad, Hubli and Kalghatgi blacks where crops like cotton, chillies, and potatoes are mainly grown. The agro-climatic conditions of Dharwad, Hubli and Kalghatgi are suitable for growing horticulture/plantation crops such as mango, sapota, coconut, Floriculture and Vegetables. The dry track comprises of mainly Navalgund Block where crops like wheat, Maize, Jowe, and Cotton are grown. The average rainfall of the district is 772 mm. per year.
1.3 Demographic Features

The population of the district is reduced to 1603794 as per census after the division of erstwhile Dharwad district Male and Female population of the district was 823415 and 780379 respectively. The urban and rural population of the district is 881726 and 722068 respectively. The density of the population of the district is 376 per sq. km. as per 2001 census.

1.4 Industrial Profile

Dharwad district is ideally located in Northern part of the state with well spread out industrial infrastructure. Hubli–Dharwad is a major industrial center in the state next only to Bangalore. National Highway No. 4 passes through the district. The major industrial areas of the district are coached with broad- gauge railway line.

The district has as many as 11759 industrial units with an investment of Rs. 23978.77 lakhs employing 222723 persons. Apart from these SSI units the district has 20 large/medium scale industries. There are 7 industrial areas in Hubli- Dharwad area.

1.5 Communication Facilities

There are 216 post offices in Dharwad district, 157 telegraph offices and 61 telephon exchanges. The district is well served by Internet, E-mail, Fax and other facilities. The district has print and electronic media facilities for business and industrial purposes aport from serving other needs of the people.

1.6 Banking Network

The district has a total number of 222 bank offices of which 51 are in rural area, 25 in semi urban areas. The following table provides the details.
Table 2.2: Agency wise Banking Network in Dharwad District

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Banking institutions</th>
<th>Total Branches</th>
<th>Area wise Branches</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Rural</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public sector Bank</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>17</td>
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<tr>
<td>Private Sector Banks</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Generation Banks</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RRBs (Braches)</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Co-operative Banks</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a) KCC Banks</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b) PLD Banks</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c) KIC Banks</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KSFC</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>222</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: as per 2001 census.

1.7 Employment

The district has 354898 full time workers 67077 semi employed workers. There were 384355 persons without any employment. There are 169965 agriculturists and 175486 agricultural labourers in the district. The number of domestic workers in the district was 9756. The number of workers employed in other services was 78472.

1.8 Forests in Dharwad District

The district has 35235 hcs. Of forest area which is about 8 percent of the total geographical area of the district. Major part of forests of the district lies along the Western borders of the Dharwad and Kalghatgi blocks. The forest consists of timber trees such as teak, matti, hone, etc.

1.9 Cooperation

The district has a total number of 997 co-operative societies. Of this agricultural co-operative credit societies were 257, dairy 85, housing 256, marketing 5 and others 594.
1.10 Agricultural Produce Marketing Committees (APMC)

All the 5 talukas in the district have 1 APMC each. In addition to these 5 APMC’s Hubli and Dharwad have 3 and 1 sub Markets respectively. While Kundagol and Navalgund talukas have 2 and 5 sub APMC’s respectively. The total number of APMC’s (main and sub APMC’s) is 16 in the district.

1.11 Transport

The district has a total number of 184894 vehicles of which 128152 were Motorcycles, 14043 Cars 9233 Auto rikshaws and 8201 transport vehicles. There were 25265 other types of vehicles in the district.

The district has 151 kms. Of broadgauge railway line and 21 railway stations. The district has 137-60 kms. Of National Highway and 519 kms. Of district highways. The roads were 2788 kms. And TDB roads 265 kms. Forest roads 32 kms. Irrigation roads 189 kms. The total road length in the district was 4194 kms.

1.12 Education

The district has good educational facilities. There are 942 primary schools, 229 high schools with 261287 and 64584 students respectively. There are 59 P U Colleges with 24007 students. There are 56 degree colleges with 3051 students. The district has 3 Engineering colleges, two Medical Colleges and one Dental College. There are 73 libraries in the district. The district has 2 Universities in Dharwad City and one University in between the twin cities.

1.13 Health

The district has 5 allopathy hospitals 76 primary health centres and 3 health units. There is dispensary and 6 family welfare centres in the district. There are 899 medical shops.
2. **OBJECTIVES**

The study of suicidal tendencies among the farmers of Dharwad district is undertaken with the following objectives:

1. To study the social, economical and educational status of the suicidal victims.
2. To study the adverse agriculture related factors for suicidal tendencies.
3. To study the community intervention in solving the agriculture related problems of the suicidal victims’ families.
4. To study the impact governmental and non-governmental organizations in reducing suicide among farmers.

3. **HYPOTHESIS**

1. Adverse agricultural factors resulting in the miserable socio-economic conditions are responsible for suicidal tendencies among farmers.
2. The assistance given by governmental and the non-governmental organizations are inadequate in mitigating the suicidal tendencies among farmers.

4. **DESIGN OF RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

4.1 **Sample Size**

The respondents in this sample mainly include the farm victim’s family members in the five taluks of Dharwad District. As per the Governmental records total 75 farmer’s suicide cases was came to light from 2003-2004 to 2009-2010 in these five talukas.

(a) **Sampling plan**

Purposive sampling technique was used for collecting the data.
4.2 Source of data collection

The data was collected from primary and secondary sources with the help of official records and also by visiting the victim’s families.

i) Primary Source

The methodological approach of data collection includes methodologies available in any social scientific work. The questionnaire method, interview method, discussions with the key informant technique was held to collect the data.

(a) Structured Questionnaires

Since, majority of the respondents are illiterate a structured questionnaire was prepared to obtain the required information from the sample selected for the purpose of the study.

(b) Interviews

The information which can not be accommodated through structured questionnaire, the same was obtained through interview schedules. The respondents in the interview method were local body members of the farm victim’s family, neighbourhoods, local body members, village accountants and others.

(c) Discussions

The discussions were held with the key informants mainly office bearers of Raitha Sangha, Raith Samparka Kendras, Village Youth Clubs, elderly persons in the village, senior farmers in different villages, agricultural experts and other experts in the field and also the government officials.
ii) Secondary Source

The secondary data was obtained from National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), Karnataka State Crime Records Bureau (SCRB), Dharwad District Crime Record Bureau (DDCRB), Reports of the committees constituted by the Government of India and the Government of Karnataka and various Non-Governmental Organisations (NGO’s), through Internet, Police Department, Birth and Death Records Office and other Government offices. Latest information relating to farmers problems and also suicides has been gathered by referring to different news papers, weekly and monthly magazines. Required information was also collected from the Karnataka University Library. Dr.V.K.Gokak Library on the Karnataka College Campus, University Law College Library, J.S.S. College Library, Center for Multi-Disciplinary Research (CMDR) and Agriculture University Library and other sources have helped me to collect information through literature. Besides this, I have read news papers, magazines and collected information which were available in the news papers and magazines related to research study.

4.3 Statistical tools Adopted in the Analysis of data

The data was collected from all the talukas of Dharwad District regarding the farmers’ suicides and it was analyzed and interpreted by using the statistical tools such as percentages, graphical representation to study the trend and pattern of the farmers’ suicides. Further, to study the association between parameters of suicide and its impact on victims the Pearson’s Chi square test for independence of attributes is applied.