

ABSTRACT OF THE THESIS

The study deals with the comparative study of farmers' suicide in various regions of Maharashtra. Farmers' are the owners of land and major suppliers of food. More than 50 percent population in Maharashtra is dependent on farming business as a source of livelihood. Recently, a major food supplier community is in distressed position and large number of member of the same community is committing suicide in Maharashtra. It is indeed, intensity of farmers' suicide is varying in different regions, however, it is found considerable expect Konkan region. Therefore, there is a need for careful study of factors responsible for farmers' suicide in various regions and policy decisions taken by government to prevent farmers' suicide in Maharashtra. The main objective of the research study is to highlight the psycho-socio-economic factors which adversely affect the tendency of farmers' towards committing suicide in the study region and to suggest the measures for increasing living standard of farmers' in Maharashtra, which will enable farmers' to increase yield adopting innovative and modern techniques of farm cultivation.

The present study has following objectives.

1. To know nature, size and other characteristics of suicide victim households.
2. To ascertain source and level of income of suicide victim households.
3. To know size of land holding, availability of irrigation, cropping pattern of suicide victim households.
4. To study productivity of major crops in selected districts and compare to average productivity of nation.
5. To ascertain nature and causes of indebtedness among suicide victim households prior committing suicide and during field visit (2010-11).
6. To study the causes of farmers suicide in different regions of Maharashtra.
7. To know contemporary economic situation of suicide victim household.
8. To study the measures made by government to issue of prevent farmers' suicides in different regions.
9. To suggest the remedial measures for preventing farmers suicides.

The study is restricted to the period from 1991-2011. However, government have registered the name of suicide victim farmers' from 2001 in

Maharashtra and data collected through field visit about suicide victim is consists with the period of 2001-2011. The data includes nature and size of family, main and subsidiary business of family, annual income generated through main business, subsidiary business of suicide victim households and measured average and individual per capita income of suicide victims, the number of BPL suicide victim households estimated according to income of suicide victim households and having BPL card holders, size of operational holding of suicide victim household, number and relative share of suicide victim households according to size of land holding, availability and source of irrigation, crops sown by suicide victim households as major crops.

Moreover, the data is collected on absolute number and relative share of indebted suicide victim households prior commit suicide and in 2010-11, source of credit, average amount of outstanding credit, purpose of loan and actual use, interest charged by non institutional creditors, causes responsible for increasing indebtedness. During field visit, data is collected about the caste, age, sex, marital status, educational status, means adopted for committing suicide, immediate causes to commit suicide and habits of suicide victims. Moreover, number of suicide victim households received help from various agencies including government is also considered in present study.

Hence after, researcher has collected data about nature of problems facing suicide victim households after committing suicide a family member, number of suicide victim households benefited from debt relief schemes, number of suicide victim needs help in various forms and measures suggested by respondents.

Similarly, researcher has made brief study of economic structure of India and more particular agriculture sector of Maharashtra. However, the yield of various major crops of selected districts have compared with the average yield of Maharashtra and India and drawn conclusion. The selected crops are cotton, rice, jowar, wheat, sugarcane, soybean and gram. Large number of respondents reported same major crops in selected district.

The present study “comparative study of farmers’ suicide in various regions of Maharashtra during 1991-2011- causes and measures” is divided into seven chapters.

1. Introduction and Research Methodology

This is the first chapter of thesis. It involves the introduction of the subject, objectives and hypotheses, need and importance, scope and limitations, sample size and sampling methods, statistical tools. The research methodology is given in detail.

2. Review of Literature

Review of literature is helpful to understand the basic concepts of subject. It helps to understand the evolution of subject. It involves the review of Ph.D. theses, reference books related to the subject, related articles and government and non-government reports. It helps to enrich the research work.

3. Status of agriculture in India

Agriculture sector is backbone for development of India. The evolution of agriculture in India is explained with the time series. The development of agriculture during planning period is given with the evidence. The chapter is also focused on land use pattern, employment generation, contribution in economic development, cropping pattern, production and yield of various crops, planned outlay, irrigation extension during pre and post economic reforms period. It represents growth rate of agriculture sector is declining during post economic reforms period due to policy fatigue of central government. It has adversely affected not only yield growth but also will power of farm businessmen. The adverse impact of new agricultural policy has seen on the irrigation extension, prices of seeds, fertilisers and pesticides, rural infrastructure development. Moreover, increasing number of unviable operational holdings also affected income, employment level and social status.

4. Profile of Maharashtra and selected districts

The research area is Maharashtra. Therefore, 13 districts are chosen for primary data collection throughout Maharashtra. The geographical profile, history, land use pattern, climate, demographic change is studied in the chapter. Similarly, detailed agricultural environment of overall Maharashtra and selected districts is given in this chapter and compared with India. It helps to support objectives of

study. The chapter reveals that despite of large rainfed area and absence of government support agriculture sector has been performing better way in Maharashtra during post globalisation. However, heavy pressure of dependent, seasonal nature of farm business, increasing number of uneconomic land holdings, uncontrolled market intermediaries, lack of subsidiary business and employment opportunities, declining performance of extension services is affected agriculture sector of Maharashtra. It leads to exploitation of farmers and consequently their survival.

5. Farmers' suicides in Maharashtra

The core theme of the study is farmers' suicide. The trends and causes of farmers' suicide are studied with the primary and secondary data. Suicide is the social, economic, cultural and national issue in India. The chapter also focuses on government strategy, policy and schemes for preventing farmers' suicide in Maharashtra. It represents that farmers' suicide is complex issue. It is indeed, multiple factors are responsible for increasing farmers' suicides in Maharashtra.

6. Data Analysis and Interpretation

This chapter is mainly based on the analysis of primary data. 652 suicide victim cases and 130 non suicide victim cases studied and analysed and interpreted. The data analysis is useful to test hypothesis and make conclusion. The statistical tools like mean, percentage, standard deviation and correlation coefficient are used for data analysis. The hypotheses tested by chi-square and t test method and results are positively support it. It represents that large number of suicide victim farmers were economically weak, indebted , small and marginal land holders, young and early married.

7. Findings, Suggestion and Conclusion

It is the last core chapter based on the analysis of primary and secondary data. It summarises the thesis. Findings drawn and suggestions are provided on the basis of primary and secondary data. Further research scope is given with conclusion.