Appendix - I
CASE STUDIES

Case 1. Lalithamma 28, is widowed by the suicide of her husband, Sri. Ravichandra a farmer had committed suicide. They belong to lingayat community who is a land owning community in Karnataka. Committed suicide by consuming pesticide during the month of November 2008. He has orphaned his young wife, a 10 years son and a 6 years old daughter. This family has 2 acres of wet land, where they were cultivating sunflower and paddy, bore well is the source of irrigation for their cultivation.

Due to failure of monsoon the bore well got dried up. He borrowed money from local money lenders at higher rates of dig bore well to get water for crops. He spent much money on bore wells, but of no avail. He was facing a huge financial crisis and has accumulated a debt of Rs. 1.2 lakhs for the purpose of bore wells. He was neither a member in farmers association nor is interested in politics. One farmer committed suicide in that village. As he is an introvert, he never used to share his difficulties neither with his wife nor with others.

Initially he used to maintain cordial relationships with his family members. Because of his indebtedness they were unable to maintain their previous status and as a result he was into depression and frustration. This finally resulted in his untimely suicide.

The suicide of her husband has come as a shock of Lalithamma. Now she has to continue their main occupation is agriculture single handedly. In spite of many practical difficulties her major worry is to clear off her debts without further delay. This has accumulated to 2 lakhs. She could not get any financial assistance from the government. As she is a member of Self-Help Group, she tried to earn meager amount and from that amount she could clear is no moral supporting guidance from her relatives and husband’s siblings. Finally in spite of the major shortcomings she is earnestly trying to get on with
limited resources with a fond hope of coping up with the tragedy of her spouse’s suicide and she is struggling hard to run the family and the cultivation to save the family from distress.

**Case 2: Obamma 38,** is widowed by the suicide of her husband, Sri Devaraju a farmer, Golla by Caste committed suicide by consuming pesticide, in July 2007. He has left behind his young wife, a 19 year old daughter and two sons in ages, 17 and 15 years. Initially this family owned 3 acres of dry land where cultivating rain fed groundnut.

Due to irregular monsoons the crops failed. He borrowed money from local money lenders at higher rates of interest. He spent large amount of money on input devices as hybrid seeds, pesticides and fertilizers, but his position did not improve. He was facing a huge financial crisis and has accumulated a debt Rs. 2.5 lakhs for the purpose of investment on agriculture. He was neither a member in farmers association. His indebtedness and incapacity to repay led him to a condition of complete frustration. Unable to bear, he took away his life in despair.

After the death of the husband, Obamma takes all responsibilities about farm and family. Now she works hard like a labour in the farm and sells vegetables in the village. She sent their three children to college. She got membership in self help group and saves small quantity of money. As a widow, Obamma proved her ability to cope up successfully the distress brought forth by the suicide of her husband s. It had not been easy but Obamma struggled hard managing the farm and the family.

**Case 3: Lakshmamma 25,** is widowed by the suicide of her husband, Sri. Kumar, a Kuruba farmer. He committed suicide by consuming pesticide 2004, orphaning his young wife, three daughters in the ages of 11 years, 9 years and 7 years and a 5 years old son. The family owned 3 acres of wet land cultivating Sunflower and paddy. Bore well was the main source of irrigation for their cultivation.
Due to poor rains, the ground water level depleted, rendering agricultural years operations amok. Unfortunately bore wells failed resulting in a huge loss of investment. He spent much to dig bore well in his land, but two bore wells failed. He led a life of debts. He became bankrupt that he borrowed even for domestic expenses. Because of larger size of the family, the expenditure soared. As a result they set out work as daily labourers in farming activities.

He maintained good relationship with his family members. He informed his wife about his debts. He always thought about debts and daughters, also he felt loss of social status in the village. He had the pressure of repayment of debts to the money lenders which forced him into depression and finally made him commit suicide.

After the death of her husband Lakshamma, with her four children is struggling with responsibilities. She works hard to clear off the debts. It is a risky job but she is quite confident. With the help of the relatives and friends she tries to manage the family. She works in anganwadi in her village; on the other hand she is also a member of SHG. She repaid her debts partially. She has not stooped her children from the school. She did not receive any type of assistance from the government. She tries to be hopeful that one Day or the other she can repay her debts totally and can provide good opportunities to her children.

Case 4: Geethamma 38, is Vokkaliga woman, widowed by the suicide of her husband, Sri. M. Rajanna a farmer. With his suicide in January 2004 orphaned his wife, 20 years old Daughter and a 17 years old son. The family owned 2 acres of wet land and 4 acres of dry land. Areca nuts, rice and ground nuts were the major crops cultivated in their land. Bore wells and rains were the main source of irrigation for their cultivation.

This small family was leading lives satisfactorily till the advent of drought conditions. When drought hits, it has frustrated the farmers’ lives.
Bore wells dried up due to the low rains, it’s also affected dry land farming. Continuous failure of crops brought various changes in the socio-economic life of farmers. The family gradually sank into debts. They tried to dig new bore wells to get water sources to the land but their efforts failed. The debts accumulated up to Rs.2.1 lakhs. He borrowed money from local money lenders. He maintained cordial relationships with the family members. He waited in hope for four to five years in succession to get good crop in the field but of no avail. Every successive year he invested on land but crops failed. He was preoccupied with how to clear off his debts. He lost his hopes on agricultural returns and the mounting pressures from the money lenders to repay the debts drove him to commit suicide.

After the sad demise of the farmer, the widow takes full involvement in agriculture. Along with the two children, she takes all responsibility about farm and family. She is involved in dairy farming to earn money to meet the daily expenses. She is the member of the SHG; she saves small quantity of money and it is helpful to her to clear minimum amount of debts regularly. She continued her children’s education. She works hard to save her family from the clutches of debts and to regain the social status.

Case 5: Venkatalakshamma 45, is widowed by the suicide of her husband, Sri D.M. Javaregowda, who had committed suicide month of January 2008. They belonged to Vokkaliga community, which is a land owning community in Karnataka. He orphaned his wife, two grown up daughters, of 21 and 19 years and a 16 year old son. The family owned 3 acres of dry land and 2 acres of wet land, where they were cultivating rice and groundnut, with the bore well and rain are the main source of irrigation source.

Due to the failure of monsoon the bore well got dried up. He borrowed money from local money lenders at higher rates to dig bore wells to get water for crops. He spent huge amount of money on bore wells but of no avail. He was facing huge financial crisis and has accumulated a debt of Rs. 2.5 lakhs for the purpose of bore wells and to invest on inputs for their cultivation. He has
maintained cordial relationship with his wife and children. He informed his wife about his debts. He had less interest in farmers association and politics. He maintained good relationship with the fellow beings, when he fell into the debt trap; he reduced participation in social ceremonies because of loss of status. He lost his hopes on agriculture at the same time there was no alternative to earn money. On the one hand clearance debts, on the other hand marriage of his daughters and family, drove him to depression that he found solace in suicide.

After the sudden shock of the husband death, the widowed Venkatalakshamma took the responsibility about the family and farming. She knows the debts and other main problems of the family. The relatives and siblings could not provide moral support to her. She works hard to overcome from the problems. She got membership in self help groups. She established a small shop. She successfully repays debts in installments. She left wet land because of no water, she given dry land to lease because of series of crop failures. She runs the family single handedly. She could successfully cope with the loss of companion and the difficulties that arose after her spouses’ death.

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