ABSTRACT

The study entitled 'Economic and Social Aspects of the High Rate of Suicide in Kerala', tries to examine the background, causes, special features, impact, and socio-economic implications of the persistent high rate of suicides in Kerala State. The study is organized into six chapters.

The study found that a significant portion of suicides are from the economically most productive age group of 15 to 45 years. This has a strong cause-effect relationship to economic factors such as being unable to repay loans, financial difficulties, bankruptcy, unemployment, etc and social factors like domestic quarrels, chronic illness, various types of ‘adjustment disorders’, etc. Major part of the victims are from the low income groups, with only school level education or less.

It was also found that alcoholism has a positive correlation to incidents of suicide. Another important finding was that a considerable portion of incidents of suicide are from the age group 60 years and above. The number of such incidents from this age group is largest in Kerala as compared to other states of India.

The study has covered the incidents of completed suicides as well as attempted suicides in which the victims survived as a result of medical treatment. Psycho-analytical aspects of the problem of suicides have also been examined in detail.
In the backdrop of the findings and conclusions of the study, a number of recommendations have been formulated, for addressing the problem of suicides.

**KEY WORDS**

Alcoholism, adjustment-disorder, attempted suicide, awareness programmes, bankruptcy, chronic illness, correlation, domestic quarrels, economic status, gender bias, indebtedness, multi-dimensional causation, nuclear family, non-governmental organizations, preventive action, psycho-analysis, social cost, suicide rate, traditional society, unemployment, visual media.