

Farmer suicide in India: reasons and statistics

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ARTICLE ID: 002

The Farmers of India are the hard worker Farmer from all over the world. They don't see the clock whether it is day or night. They don't see whether it is raining or sun is shining. They have not any interest in gold or silver or any other type of cosmetics but for them the real gold is their Golden crop. They used to take care of the crop like their children. After that when the crop is ready now they did the duty of a cop. Yes now they prevent them from thieves. Then they take the reap crop at home and sell over the market. This is the job of a farmer.

Farmers suicide: no end to despair

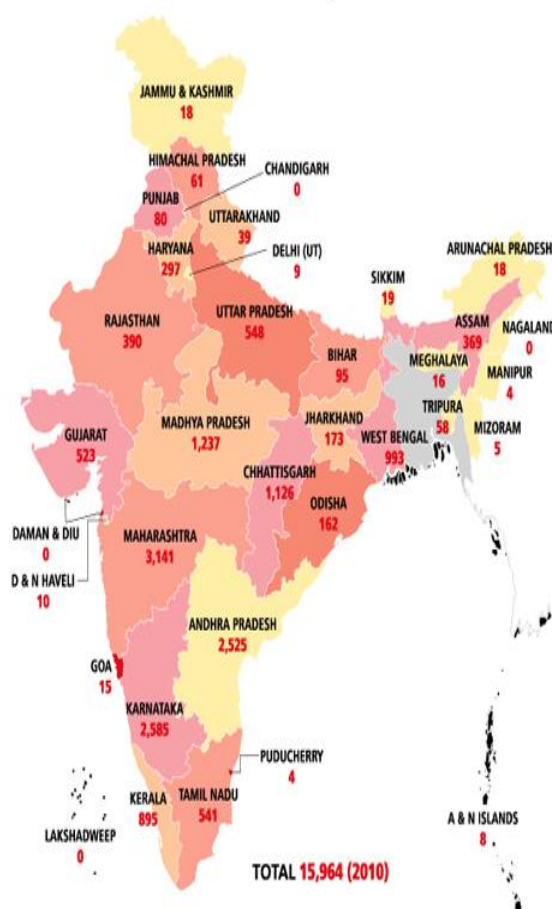
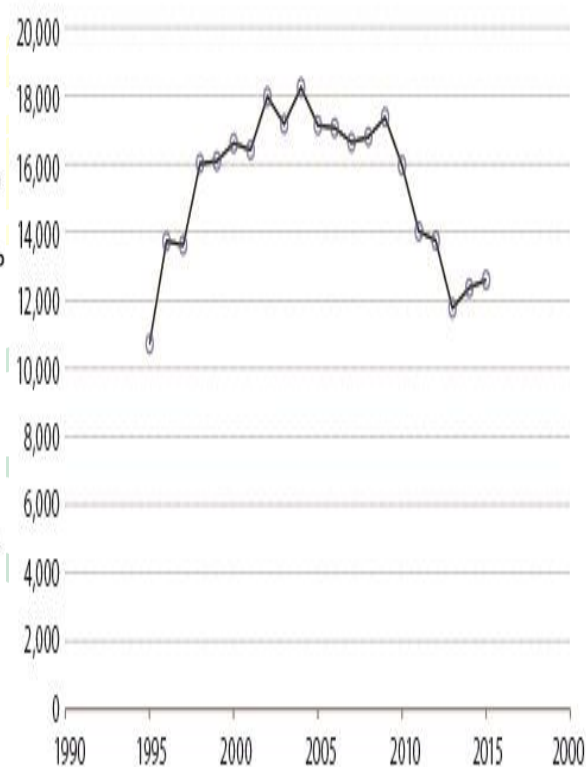


Figure 1: Number of Farmer Suicides in India, 1995-2015



Source: Gol (2015).

But today they are ending their life for many reasons. This situation is such a serious one. If they keep hanging themselves then what the world would eat. Financial conditions or debt: The farmer of India is poor and this poverty is famous all over the world. That means everyone is aware of this. The farmer of India can't afford the meal for two times of the day because of poverty. How surprising is this that one who's growing food for us is himself remains hungry. They are unable to give education to their children and they can't fulfil the need of their children. Their children can't dream. His wife is a woman who does lots of sacrifices for their families. The primer reason for suicide is inability to repay the loans that they have taken for cultivation needs. Panchagavya an economist at the world bank states "farm related reasons get cited only approximately 25 percent of the time as reason for suicide" and "studies do consistently show greater debt burden and greater reliance on informal sources of credit" amongst farmers who commit suicide. The BT cotton seeds cost twice as compare to the ordinary ones. The high cost forced farmers to take loans, often from private moneylenders charging exorbitant interest rates. The moneylenders force farmers to sell their cotton at lower price than market. According to studies this created a source of debt, economic stress and hence suicide. The other reasons for the suicide are interconnected with debt. According to a study of 2006, the percentage of farmers who were in debt in Andhra Pradesh, Punjab, Karnataka, Maharashtra was 70%, 65%, 61%, 60% respectively.

Failure of crops:

The fluctuation in the climate is the reason of failure of crops. High temperature and low rainfall during the growing season impact annual suicide rates. The harvest of saffron has been declining in recent years and has failed farmers in Kashmir because of severe drought in part by climate change. Everybody knows that how expensive saffron is and a small loss in this affects a lot. I think this reason is all up to God, if he wishes he can cause the rainfall, but if he is not happy with us, he will make us suffer.

Family disputes and problems:

Many families trade in partnerships and this is the reason for dispute in family members. If there is a loss happens then both the partners affects the same. After this one blames on another that he is wrong here and he is right. This cause conflictions on both sides. Another is Family farm inheritance dispute leads to such day court battles, bitter inheritance disputes

centred around family farms and so on because of these dispute they have to pay lawyers also and hence their debt increases and to avoid this situation he ultimately suicides .

Chronic illness:

The chronic conditions such as asthma, diabetes and other respiratory diseases increase farmer's suicidal thoughts. Having a chronic illness may increase the risks of development of psychiatric disorder which in turn increase the risk of suicidal plans, thoughts and attempts. Everybody knows that farmer is the busiest person. They don't have much time to go to doctor. They don't take care of their own health and hence their body weakens. After this when their condition affects badly then they don't have enough money to pay the doctor's fee. This made them to suicide.

Marriage of daughters:

This reason seems small and not major but this is such a serious one. We all know that farmers are the middle class peoples. They took debt for cultivation then how will they marry their daughter without money. They are already under a loan. This make them to borrow more for marriage and other gatherings.

Unavailable of bore Wells:

This is the another reason for suicide of farmers. Not only bore Wells but unavailability of other equipment that is expensive became a reason for suicide. They are unable to buy huge expensive equipments and sometimes they borrow money to buy them. Sometimes they use alternative methods like Bullocks for farming and they hire some labors also. The other reason is bore well. This water quality is not same everywhere. The water availability is also not same everywhere. Somewhere it is too saline which is not perfect for some crops and somewhere the water level is too deep and without water there is no cultivation possible. This leads to suicidal thoughts in the mind of farmer.

I concluded that these are not only the reasons for suicide of farmers but there are many more others. Today government is supporting them wholeheartedly but because of the lack of knowledge they unable to take benefit of various schemes. The government needs to create various programs for awareness in farmer so that suicidal rate decreases.