

**FARMERS' SUICIDE IN WESTERN
VIDARBHA : CASE STUDIES**

THESIS

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**Submitted to
Dr. Panjabrao Deshmukh Krishi Vidyapeeth, Akola
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**MASTER OF SCIENCE
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2009

DECLARATION OF STUDENT

I hereby declare that the experiment work and its interpretation of the Thesis entitled "**FARMERS' SUICIDE IN WESTERN VIDARBHA : CASE STUDIES**" or part thereof has neither been submitted for any other degree or diploma at any university, nor the data have been derived from any thesis / publication of any university or scientific organisation. The source of materials used and all assistance received during the course of investigation have been duly acknowledged.

Place : Akola

Date : 12/06/2009



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CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the thesis entitled "**FARMERS' SUICIDE IN WESTERN VIDARBHA : CASE STUDIES**" submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of "**Master of Science in Agriculture (Extension Education)**" of Dr. Panjabrao Deshmukh Krishi Vidyapeeth, Akola is a record of bonafide research work carried out by **Rajput Mohjitsing Onkarsing** under my guidance and supervision.

The subject of the thesis has been approved by the student's Advisory Committee.

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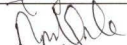
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List of Abbreviations

%	- per cent
/	- per
Bt	- Bacillus thurengensis
et al.	- et alia (and others)
Fig.	- Figure
Govt.	- Government
ha	- hectare
J.	- Journal
Km	- Kilometer
No.	- Number
q	- quintal
Rs.	- Rupees
Soc. sci.	- Social Science
Std.	- Standard
un pub.	- unpublish
Vs.	- Versus
www.	- world wide web

(F)

THESIS ABSTRACT

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ABSTRACT

The study entitled " Farmers' suicide in Western Vidarbha : case studies " was undertaken in Buldana district of Vidarbha region.

The specific objectives of the study were as under.

1. To study personal, socio-economic, psychological and situational characteristics of the selected victims.
2. To study the causes of suicide of selected victims.

3. To study the consequences on the victims family.
4. To document the suggestions to prevent suicide in victims households.

The data from eight respondents were collected with the help of interview schedule. The findings emerged out of the present investigation have been summarized as follows.

The results of the case studies pointed out that the causes of suicide are complex, as are the causes of any social phenomenon. Many factors combine to causes, one particular individual (and not another) to divert his aggression upon himself in the form of suicide. Suicide of farmers was not a random or pointless act in study area on the contrary, it was a way adopted by the deceased farmers to escape from various problems or a crisis that were invariably causing intense suffering to them. This study also concluded that causes of suicide were varying from case to case but the main reason behind the all causes was nonprofitable farming business that leads to indebtedness, non sustainable financial and social web.

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

"Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan" – Lal Bahadur Shastri

This slogan of a visionary Late. Prime Minister has lost its potential over the time. After independence, according to Gandhiji's vision of Gram-Swaraj, villages and specially farmers were to be the main focus of any development plan of India. As years passby, agriculture as an industry lost its importance for policy makers of India. This over the time caused severe distress among the farmers leading to recent dramatic rise in the number of suicides among farmer community. Every day in newspaper invariably there is news related to farmer's suicide.

1.1 Background Information

Suicide is the term applied to all cases of death resulting directly or indirectly from a positive or negative act of the victim himself, which he knows, will produce this result (Durkheim, 2002).

The term suicide in English is derived from the Latin words 'sui' meaning 'one self' and 'cideo' meaning to 'to kill'. Thus etymologically suicide means 'to kill one self'.

According to Oxford English dictionary suicide means, the act of taking one's life or the act of killing oneself. But suicide is not just a blind act of killing oneself. It is motivated act of self distraction. As the noted British Psychiatrist, Elwin Stengel, point out, 'suicide is the fatal act of self-injury undertaken with conscious self-destructive intent, however, vague and ambiguous (Phal, 2000).

1.1.1 Definition of suicide

Pandey (1985) defined suicide as an index to the relative degree of social disorganization in society and the process by which group relationship are broken.

According to Kaplan *et al.*, (1994), suicide is not a random or pointless act on the contrary it is a way out of problem or a crisis that is

invariably causing intense suffering. Suicide is associated with thwarted or unfulfilled needs, feeling of hopelessness and helplessness, ambivalent conflicts between survival and unbearable stress, a narrowing of perceived options, and a need for escape, the suicidal person sends out signal of distress.

1.1.2 Reviewing the phenomenon

The term Suicide is a complex and multifaceted phenomenon. Some important correlates can be identified either in the neurobiological domain (Mann, 2002) or in the socio-economic domain (Durkheim, 2002). The former are predisposing in nature. They are internal factors that exist in the individual. All those identified with these factors do not commit suicide. The presence of additional factors that are external to the individual becomes crucial. This takes us to the socio-economic factors that are precipitating in nature- they can act as a trigger. These can be either systemic or idiosyncratic (Mishra, 2006^b).

Sridhar, (2006) stated that the phenomenon of suicide is widely regarded to be a result of individuals inability to cope with sudden and cataclysmic changes in socio-economic conditions among the peasantry.

Kale (2008) proved that more the personal, socio-economic, situational and psychological risks factors associated with peasant community, greater will be the chances to turn towards the suicide decision.

1.1.3 Reviewing the issue of Agrarian Crisis

The recent Situation Assessment Survey (SAS) carried out by the National Sample Survey Organization [NSSO 2005] had also overwhelmingly proved that the agriculture is no longer a profitable enterprise; income from crop cultivation is not enough to meet the annual cultivation expenditure of the farmer.

Maharashtra Government Report (2006) revealed that 98.00 per cent suicide victims had no source of irrigation and the farmers from Vidarbha who had committed suicide grow single crop every year. Cotton was the dominant crop of this region. Dominance of cotton in cropping

pattern, low yield, high cost of cultivation and low return were the major contributing factors to agrarian crisis.

Narayanamoorthy (2006^a) stated that income from crop cultivation was not enough to meet the annual cultivation expenditure in most of the states like Haryana. In Vidarbha the non-remunerative price for crops, indebtedness and crop failure due to frequent droughts were by and large identified as the core reason of farmer suicides and distress.

The economic survey 2006-07, enlisted some of the structural weaknesses of the agricultural sector, which include low levels of public investment, exhaustion of the yield potential of new high yielding varieties of wheat and rice, imbalanced fertilizer use, low seed replacement rate and low yield per unit area across almost all crops. Agricultural growth has become lackluster, as rain-fed areas still constitute about 65 per cent of the total net sown area. The diminishing size of land holdings, degradation in land quality and soil health due to improper nutrient application, the looming threats of global warming and climate change, emergence of new pest and disease, production losses due to biotic and abiotic causes, weak linkages between research and extension, limited credit access at reasonable rate of interest, non remunerative prices, inadequate market access, poor rural infrastructure and insufficient post harvest infrastructure such as warehousing, cold chains, and agro-processing facilities are other features plaguing our agricultural production environment (Anonymous, 2007).

The problems arising from above mentioned structural weakness of agricultural sector might largely contribute to present distress among farming community in some parts of the country and particularly in low irrigation tracts of Vidarbha region of Maharashtra and pushed the farmers into self-inflicted death trap.

1.1.4 Profile of Farmers' Suicide

India consisting of 16 per cent of world's population sustains only on 2.4 per cent of land resource. Agriculture sector is the only livelihood to the two-third of its population which gives employment to the 57 per cent of work force and is a raw material source to large number of industries. Despite of portrayal of farming as healthy and happy way of life, agriculture

sector experiences one of the highest numbers of suicides than any other industry. In 1990's, India woke-up to a spate of suicide among farmers community with particular reference to Vidarbha region. A look at the figures given out by State Crime Records Bureau makes it evident that farmer as a professional category is suffering from this problem of high suicide rates (Behere and Behere, 2008).

Sainath (2007) stated that nearly 29,000 farmers committed suicide in Maharashtra between 1997 and 2005, official data show. No other state comes close to that total. This means that of the roughly 1.5 lakhs farmers who killed themselves across the country in that period almost every fifth one was from Maharashtra. More than 19,000 of those farmer suicides occurred from 2001 onwards.

According to National Crime Bureau, its prove that in country 46 farmers make suicide daily. In year 2007 there are 16,632 suicide in which 2369 suicide is of women, among this 14% farmer's commit suicide. In Maharashtra state during last eight years the incidence of farmers' suicide is increases tremendously since from 41 suicide in year 2001 to 4578 suicide at end of year 2008. In year 2008 from 1st January to 31st December, 640 farmers choose the way of suicide and it intensity was more in Vidarbha region (Anonymous, 2009^b).

In Vidarbha particularly in six districts namely Yavatmal, Amravati, Buldana, Washim, Akola and Wardha, the incidence of suicide of farmers has increased tremendously. Since January 2001 to December 2008, total 5038 farmers committed suicide out of which 1940 number of suicide cases were reported legal at Government level. The detail data about farmers suicide of suicide prone six districts of Vidarbha during 2001 to 2008 has been presented in annexure III.

1.2 Need and Importance of Study

For the first time in the known history of India, peasants in recent year had taken recourse to suicide. Although this phenomenon has been present in most of the agriculturally advanced states. This one is the most disquieting development in the era of the neoliberal policy in the India has been widespread occurrence of farmers suicide in different parts of country

including not only the drought prone areas of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra but also a state of heavy rainfall like Kerala, also a state like Punjab with large areas under irrigation.

Agriculture is the backbone of Indian economy and farmers are the real cultivators of agricultural land. But recently the farmers have been committing suicide. In Vidarbha region during last eight years, 5038 farmers committed suicide in suicide hit prone six districts of Vidarbha, namely, Yavatmal, Amravati, Buldana, Akola, Washim, and Wardha. From these six district Buldana district was purposively selected for the present case studies of the deceased farmers. In this district during 2001 to 2008 total 893 farmers ended their lives. The detailed suicide chart of this district is given in Table 1.

Table.1 Farmer's suicide chart of Buldana district during 01.01.2001 to 31.12.2008

Year	Month	No. of suicide cases	No. of cases valid for compensation	No. of cases not valid for compensation	Details of valid cases for compensation	
					Crop loss	Indebtedness
2001	January to December	008	04	004	00	04
2002	January to December	009	06	003	00	06
2003	January to December	014	12	002	01	11
2004	January to December	085	38	047	02	36
2005	January to December	081	39	042	06	33
2006	January to December	306	99	207	27	72
2007	January to December	193	42	151	05	37
2008	January to December	197	44	153	03	41
	Total	893	284	609	44	240

(Anonymous 2009^a)

This is what we have been hearing from Vidarbha and other part of the country over the last eight years. Why does this happen? For finding the answers to these questions and taking suggestions from victim's households, for avoiding this tragic phenomenon, the current exercise was felt essential, so that in future, we can overcome important root causes by applying various planning and developmental measures in agriculture and with the families of suicide farmers.

Hence to understand the various factors behind the suicide of farmers, the present study was thought necessary to study the few cases in detail by applying case study method of social research in Buldana district of Western Vidarbha region with following objectives.

1.3 Objectives of the study

Specific objectives of the study were framed as below,

1. To study personal, socio-economic, psychological and situational characteristics of the selected victims.
2. To study the causes of suicide of selected victims.
3. To study the consequences on the victims family.
4. To document the suggestions to prevent suicide in victims household.

1.4 Scope and Limitations of the study

The present study was conducted in Mehkar and Khamgaon taluka of Buldana district of Western Vidarbha. The research findings of the study helped to understand the causes and various factors behind the suicide. The study was also found useful to know the present status and constraints faced by family after death of family head.

1. The study was carried in Buldana district. The findings will be applicable wherever similar conditions prevail.
2. The act of suicide is a confidential attempt, so researchers have to depend on others for information related to victim. Hence the result of the study will be depending on the information given by the households and neighbours.

3. The present thesis submitted to partial fulfillment of the requirements for the post graduate degree and therefore study had to complete in a stipulated period of time, hence time and money is the prime limitation for the researcher.

* * * * *

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Review of literature is an important aspect of scientific research. Review of literature is essential before and even actual start of research. It helps the researcher to get acquainted with the subject matter and get insight into the research problem. Efforts have been made to review the research studies and literature having direct relation or having its derived application with the aspects of the present study.

In the present study, the relevant literature on the factors leading to farmers' suicide and the personal and social characteristics of the suicidal farmers was collected and presented as under the following subheads.

2.1 Personal characteristics

Deshpande (2002) stated normally the suicide victims were distributed across all age groups, but largely concentrated in the age group of 28-47 years. It was also reported that, the middle age group seems to be more prone to suicide as against the younger or elder people and the probability is highest at around 35 years of age. The land holding of 2-4 acres is belong to 30.00 per cent of suicide victims, 27 per cent victims had 4-10 acres of land and only 11 per cent victims had above 10 acres of land and the victims household average income is in the range of Rs. 2000 to Rs. 48,000 per annum.

Jodhka (2006) stated that 71.00 per cent of the farmers who committed suicide were from poor families' mostly marginalized farmer or landless labour.

Mishra (2006^b) reported that 55.00 per cent suicide cases were in the age group of 31-50 years and 80.00 per cent were recently married and 91.00 per cent are male, on educational status, 21 per cent were illiterate, 14 per cent were literate but below primary level, 26 per cent completed primary education but were below matriculation and the rest were higher education. On experience in farming, 24 per cent had less than five years, 18 per cent had about 6-10 years and the remains 58 per cent

had more than 10 year of experience. The size class of land showed that 14 per cent where marginal (up to 2.5 acres), 39 per cent where small (2.5 – 5 acres), 21 per cent semi-medium (5-10 acres), 15 per cent medium (10-20 acres) and 7 per cent had not given information on their land ownership. In 55 per cent cases it was observed that, the individual concerned had not discussed his/her problem with family members.

Narayanamoorthy (2006^b) stated according to the survey, at the all India level, the average annual income of farmer household was Rs. 25,380 includes cultivation, wages, farming of animals and non farm business income, but income from cultivation accounts for only about 45 per cent of the total income and the remaining receipts are from other sources including wage income, which alone accounts for almost 39 per cent, clearly the annual income from cultivation comes to only about Rs. 11,628 per farmer household, after excluding the other sources.

Sridhar (2006) reported that in two months of 2004 more than 400 peasants in Andhra Pradesh committed suicide of which more than 80.00 per cent suicide victims had land holding below 5 acres.

Deshmukh *et al.* (2007) shown that in Vidarbha, the 51.71 per cent suicide farmers were ranging between age group of 40 to 59 years, while the 35.12 per cent suicide farmers were ranging between age group of 20 to 39 years. The per cent of the age group upto 20 years was 1.46 and the per cent of the age group above 60 years was 11.71. The percentage of age group revealed that the maximum farmers were belonging to the age group when the person usually has responsibility of the family.

2.2 Causes of suicide

Assadi (1998) found that more than 20 peasants in the northern districts of Karanataka – Bidar, Raichur, Gulbarga, Dharwad have committed suicides over the last three months by consuming pesticides. The heavy losses they incurred due to crop failure and also mounting debts to the moneylenders seems to be the main reason.

Sridhar (1998) reported that the suicides by cotton farmers in Andhra Pradesh were linked to the pursuit of market driven agricultural policies.

Vandana Shiva *et al.* (1999) reported that farmers in Yavatmal district in Vidarbha for the last few year, are facing of cotton failure despite favourable climate condition and uninterrupted supply of inputs. The yield have drastically decreased from a quintal to a few kilograms per acre over these years.

Assadi (2000) stated that the seeds tribunal becomes imperative to document the testimonies of those affected by the new economy or globalization, however the testimonies did not centre around only the aspect of suicide but also covered issues such as the cost of green revolution, debt trap, crop failures, spurious fertilizers, increasing cost of chemicals, low income and low production.

Gupta (2001) mentioned that the increasing amount of life stress was blamed by many sociologists for the rise in the number of suicides. Stress is fast building in all sections of society. In our country, the joint family used to be a major stress absorber. With the breakup of the joint family system, particularly in the cities, individuals are feeling apart. They don't know whom to depend on during periods of crisis. Stress prone individuals are unable to combat this fast developing stress.

Parvathimenon (2001) Investigations showed that crop failure, indebtedness and related problems caused a majority of these deaths.

Ramoo (2001) reported that farmers ended their lives by consuming highly toxic pesticides. Ultimately or inadequate rain's leading to crop failure and slump in prices of agriculture commodities due to overproduction, which often rendered the farmers helpless in discharging their debt burden, force them to commit suicide.

Deshpande (2002) observed that the joint family system is breaking and majority of the victim's lived in nuclear families. It indicates the moral and physical support that they derived in the joint family system has declined. However, the failure of family and friends as institutions to instill confidence among the victims was observed. A large number of

family members of the victims have reported the 'introvert' characteristics of the victims. This also indicates that the victims tended to suffer within themselves. All this points towards the failure of the social institutions, be it a family, relatives, village, village panchayat (of the olden type), village elders as advisers, friends, co-workers and other family member. In the absence of these supporting institutions and individuals, the deep unguarded feeling ulcerated as economic problems worsened, which in itself is a cause for the abnormal culmination of the distress into self destruction. Also the poor irrigation has been a major cause for farmers suicide in Vidarbha, of the 59 lakh ha cultivable land in the region, only 11,33,000 ha have been irrigated, when the achievable irrigation potential was to the tune of nearly 36,73,000 ha.

Kumar and Rao (2002) revealed that loss of crop due to infestation of bollworm and whitefly, debts of moneylenders and tenent farming was the primary reasons for suicide.

Venugopala Rao (2002) stated the main reasons for suicides as debt trap, no availability of remunerative prices for agricultural produce, low yields due to natural calamities and poor quality seeds and pesticides.

Mohanty and Sangita Shroff (2003) observed that economic reason has led to only 18 per cent suicide and there are several other reasons for suicide of farmers.

Venkataramaiah (2003) indicated the impact of psychological reasons on behaviour of farmers including fear complex, loneliness, depression, sense of helplessness, sense of hopelessness for future in addition to others.

Vidyasagar and K.S. Chandra (2003) reported that debt trap was the main cause of farmers' suicide. Debt trap is getting tightened up because of the agrarian crisis on one hand and inaccessibility of institutional credit on the other.

Mohanty and Sangita Shroff (2004) stated that the agriculture in the districts of Vidarbha is greatly influenced by vagaries of the monsoon. And the loan taken from formal sources by deceased farmer was Rs. 16978.73, while Rs. 9500 per ha from informal source. Major part of the borrowing of the farmers of all categories was for non-agriculture reasons

such as social functions, family expenses, investment in business etc. also that the 70.00 per cent suicide victim's lived in nuclear family.

Priyanka Kakodkar (2004) reported that due to heading for drought in Vidarbha region of Maharashtra farmers have committed suicide because of mounting debt.

Sarma (2004) stated that heavy debt and acute poverty had forced many farmers in the state to take the extreme step of committing suicide.

Swaminathan (2004) revealed multidimensional nature of farmers distress, the deficiencies in institutional factors related to credit, insurance, supply of inputs such as seeds, fertilizers pesticides and marketing and other social factors. Farmers' distress causes are many and varied like low price for farm commodities, harassment by private money lenders and absence of producer oriented marketing systems.

Dandekar *et al.* (2005) reported that a repeated crop failure, inability to meet the rising cost of cultivation and indebtedness seems to create situation that forces farmers to commit suicides in Maharashtra.

Katakam (2005) reported that the Vidarbha region where suicide occurred had little irrigation whereas, almost 60 per cent of irrigation projects cater to the western region of Maharashtra. Also pointed that more than 30 lakh farmers are dependent on cotton cultivation in Maharashtra. Vidarbha accounts for 20 per cent of the cotton production in the country, which places Maharashtra second in cotton production in India. Approximately 30 lakh hectares, which was about 16.90 per cent of Maharashtra's net sown area was under cotton.

Singh (2005) stated that personal responsibilities like education and marriage of children are some of the factors responsible for farmers suicide.

Anita Gill and Singh (2006) the farmers suicides from Punjab state revealed that among small and marginal farmers the maximum number of suicide were reported, whereas, most of the suicide victim's were illiterate. The causes of suicides were indebtedness, the other factors including economic distress, crop failure, alcoholism, marital and domestic discard, drug addiction etc. All these causes in one way or other pointed

towards the poor economic status of the victims which manifested it in various ways. Indebtedness was more towards non-institutional source of finance, in which commission agent figured prominently.

Dev (2006) reported that at all India level, around 49 per cent of the farmer households were indebted.

Goel (2006) in door to door survey found that, of the 17 lakh plus families covered, more than a one fourth that is more than two million people were "under maximum distress". And more than three quarters of the rest were "Under medium distress". In short, almost seven million peoples were in distress. The major source of such misery; debt and crop loss or crop failure (which often overlap). The pressure on farmers who cannot afford their daughter's marriages and rising health costs.

Kavitha (2006) reported that disintegration of joint family system is one of the reasons for suicidal death of farmers.

Maharashtra Government Report (2006) revealed that 98.00 per cent suicide victims had no source of irrigation and the farmers from Vidarbha who had committed suicide grow single crop every year. Cotton was the dominant crop of this region. Dominance of cotton in cropping pattern, low yield, high cost of cultivation and low return were the major contributing factors to agrarian crisis.

Mishra (2006^c) observed that 86.50 per cent suicide victim's were indebted. The average amount of outstanding debt per transaction for agricultural purpose was greater than Rs. 10,000. The outstanding debt from suicide cases is 3.7 times more than total outstanding debt from non-suicide controls. The reliance on moneylenders and friends or relatives was higher for suicide cases (54 per cent) than non-suicide controls (39 per cent).

Narayanamoorthy (2006^a) stated that income from crop cultivation was not enough to meet the annual cultivation expenditure in most of the states like Haryana. In Vidarbha the non remunerative price for crops, indebtedness and crop failure due to frequent droughts were by and large identified as the core reason of farmer suicides and distress.

Narayanamoorthy and Kalamkar (2006) stated that one of the serious problems faced by Indian rural households has been indebtedness.

At all India level, the proportion of households reporting indebtedness has increased from 25.90 per cent in 1991-92 to 48.60 per cent in 2003.

Narasimha Rao and Suri (2006) stated that 46 per cent of the farmers in the two villages of Andhra Pradesh have operational landholdings of less than 5 acres; 43 per cent were operating land between 5 and 10 acres and only 13 per cent had holdings above 10 acres. Thus, most of the farmers belong to marginal, small and medium groups and were vulnerable to risk and uncertainty, that prevail in agricultural production. For loan farmers depends on both formal and informal agencies, out of total 75 farmers, 72 have borrowed from two or more than two sources, 96 per cent of the farmer borrowed from institutional agencies. Apart from economic factors social factors like breakdown of joint family system have created depressed conditions in the agrarian economy.

Satish (2006) found that 17.89 per cent farmers who committed suicide due to indebtedness, 31.80 per cent farmers used credit for productive purpose while, 68.20 per cent used for unproductive purposes.

Sainath (2006) stated that irrigation water is a huge problem in Maharashtra. As much as 57.00 per cent of irrigation water is used by 2.00 per cent of the farming population.

Shesh (2006) according to some social workers from Maharashtra, farmers are not committing suicides only because of bad monsoon and low yields. The main reason for this situation in Vidarbha is collapse of rural credit system. This was the reason of suicides stated in Andhra Pradesh and the same is applicable to Vidarbha. Artificially high interest rates with artificially low market buying price offered to the farmers is the main culprits. Banks refuse to give loan to farmers because of the low yield nature of these loans as supposed to other type of investments through loans. Bad monsoon and low yield soil only adds to the problem, but it is not the main problem.

Suri (2006) pointed out that a large number of farmers suicides have been reported from the states, which are relatively agriculturally developed, which have seen strong peasant movements either in the colonial or post independence periods or both, and where the

leadership of political parties has come predominantly from farming communities. Also there are some of the social factors responsible for farmers' distress like break-up of joint families, individualization of agriculture operations.

Behere and Behere (2008) pointed out, average annual profit cultivation in the state of Maharashtra was the lowest of all Indian States lagging for behind the state with highest Jammu and Kashmir (Rs. 4363 Vs Rs. 22770). The reasons for such a pathetic state of farmers include below average rainfall, heavy load shedding, lack of small irrigation projects, poverty, pressure of private moneylenders and banks, decreasing interest of the young generation in farming.

Kale (2008) pointed out that young (36.50%) and middle (87.50%) age group seemed to be more prone to suicides as compared to old (26.00%), over half of (57.00%) suicide cases were belonged to OBC category and mostly the kunbis from all selected six districts. Maximum (63.00%) victims were from nuclear type of families, more than two third (67.00%) of the victims belonged to small (43.50%) and marginal (23.50%) land holdings group. Majority (96.50%) of the deceased farmers were concentrated between very low and low level of socio-economic status group. Over half (54.50%) of the deceased farmers held very shallow type of land. Nearly three fourth (69.00%) suicide cases were not having any source to access the irrigation and remaining 24.00 per cent were having only open well as a irrigation source, whereas remaining victims had canal (3.00%), tube well (1.50%), river (1.00%) and both canal and well (1.50%) as the source to assess irrigation. While considering land utilization pattern 88.56 per cent area was under rainfed condition and area under irrigation was noted very negligible 9.03 per cent. Out of 200 victim 98.50 per cent victims were found indebted, whereas, only 3 victims (1.50%) were free from any obligation of debt.

The study showed that out of the 77 (38.50%) victims, who held the responsibility of daughter/ sister marriages in family, majority 60 (77.92%) was found unable to perform the responsibility. Sizable 42.00 per cent victims were observed under alcohol addiction, in 19.00 per cent deceased farmers personal health problem were noted. The most common

risk factor was increased indebtedness found in 94.00 per cent deceased farmers. In 78.50 per cent cases crop failure were reported. Introvert personality was identified in 71.00 per cent deceased farmers with sizable group of cases (42.00%) alcohol use disorder was associated. In 32 (16.00%) victims disputes/ quarrel was noticed with their family members due to domestic reasons.

Sawale (2008) stated that in Buldana district near about 7.50 lakh hectares of area under farming and more than 90 per cent farm land is rainfed. On this land for kharif and rabi crop farmer have to depend on rain water and also the nature behaves whimsically which affect the living pattern of the farmers this lead to distress condition in Buldana district which result in low productivity of crop.

2.3 Remedies/suggestions to prevent suicide

Revathi (1998) stated, it was very much evident that in the process of creating private source of irrigation, most of the farmers have invested heavily on digging and deepening of wells, farmers themselves had borne the expenses for it.

Shambhu Prasad (1999) concluded that alternative routes of production, which could be by linking household textile production, local yarn spinning and the growing of cotton in small farm, perhaps provide the key for sustainable cotton farming.

Bose (2000) observed that increase in suicidal incidence among farmers; farmers indebtedness (due to failure of the cotton crop, high cost of pesticide, over use of pesticides and the use of fake pesticides supplied by dealers and over mechanization of agriculture) the seasonal migration of labours from other provinces and countries sewage and water management problem among rural households; and gender issues in the educational sector. It is indicated that social development has not kept pace with economic growth. Green revolution technology, mechanized agriculture and media exposure have not changed the mindset of the people. Research on social transformation and planning for mobilization of youth are suggested in building nation.

Gill (2004) reported that farmers in the state are once again mobilizing over a range of issues, spurred by the need to change the situation that has been leading to the large number of farmers' suicide. Farmers are demanding liberation from debt, campaigning against exploitation by commission agent, and demanding the restoration of free power and water among others.

Raju (2004) stated that the hungry farmer is an angry man, his anger may lead to frustration and finally may lead to suicide. Remedies suggested to overcome the problem were fixing and identification and recommendations of good brand pesticides and seeds, changing the policy of crop insurance from mandal level to individual farmer at village level.

Singh (2006) pointed out the need for refurbishing the canal irrigation system, as 75 per cent of the irrigation in this surface water rich state is ground water and tube well based. This is unsustainable. There is a dire need to promote micro irrigation along with crop diversification and make these micro (water efficient and water saving) system mandatory for new tube well connections for farm irrigation. Financial institutions have not pursued systematic and comprehensive long-term policy for agricultural credit growth in Punjab. There are 36 per cent small and marginal growers who suffer from inadequate access to short-term institutional credit and far too liberal an access to long term institutional credit.

Garg (2007) revealed that the National Commission on farmers has drawn attention to the knowledge deficit, which constrains agriculture productivity. To overcome this, the farmers need effective and efficient linkages with universities and best practices. A good extension system is the mean for achieving this linkage, which for the present has virtually collapsed in most states.

✓ Mehata (2007) revealed that the agriculture sector in the country has not developed to the desired extent due to many challenges. In many pockets particularly in remote places farmers are still relying on traditional agriculture. They are yet to come out of old methods and systems. Information technology and communication, through developing rapidly has not reached such places. Technical support is the need of the hour in today's fast changing environment. The transport facilities are

lacking in some remote places unless there is adequate infrastructure and marketing facilities, the agriculture sector can not be expected to grow.

Swaminathan (2007) pointed out that there is a need to provide multiple livelihood opportunities in distress from region, like livestock rearing, as well as non farm occupation in areas such as biomass utilization and post harvest technology. Cotton biomass offers opportunities to produce high value products such as absorbent cotton, cotton seed oil and charcoal. There has to be an integrated on farm and non farm livelihood strategy. Income security depends largely on output prices and the market. Low and uncertain returns are among the important causes for farmers despair. As a single step, assured and remunerative prices for commodities will help end debt deaths.

2.4 Magnitude of the suicide

Assadi (1995) stated that the suicides reflect the inability of the Indian state to tackle the larger issues afflicting the agrarian economy.

Parvathimenon (2001) reported forty-one cases of suicide in Anantapur district of Andhra Pradesh between September and November, 2000.

Mishra (2006^a) stated that the suicide mortality rate (SMR), (Suicide death for 1,00,000 peoples) for male farmers in India increased from 12.3 in 1996 to 19.2 in 2004 and then reduce to 18.2 in 2005 whereas, SMR for male non-farmers increased from 11.9 in 1996 to peak of 14.2 in 2000 and thereafter decline to 13.4 in 2005. During 2001-05 there were 86,922 farmers suicide of which 86 per cent were males. Across major states, the states where SMR for male farmers is higher that of the national average of 17.5 and SMR for male non-farmers in that state are Kerala, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh among smaller states/ union territories the incidence are high in the Pondecherry, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Delhi, Goa and Sikkim.

Joshi (2007) revealed that Indian agriculture was in deep crisis. There was a widespread unrest among farmers due to slowing down or stagnating income.

CHAPTER III

METHODOLOGY

Research methodology deals with the description of research methods and techniques. For sound research, the researcher has to take support of various research methods, techniques and tools. He has to accurately define and measure the concept. For this, the researcher needs to know the procedure of conceptualization, operationalization, measurement and quantification, so that, he can make use of it and put forth the efforts in that direction. The same have been discussed with relevant details under the following sections.

- 3.1 Locale of study.
- 3.2 Research design
- 3.3 Sample and sampling plan
- 3.4 Variable studied
- 3.5 Development of interview schedule
- 3.6 Collection of data

3.1 Locale of study

The study was undertaken purposively in Buldana district of Western Vidarbha region of Maharashtra state, as this is the one of suicide hit district of Western Vidarbha during last seven years and as such type of study was not conducted so far in the district.

3.2 Research design

The present study was based on case study research design. Case study refers to the collection and presentation of detailed information about a particular participant or small group, frequently including the accounts of subjects themselves. A form of qualitative descriptive research, the case study looks intensely at an individual or small participant pool, drawing conclusions only about that participant or group and only in that specific context. (Anonymous, 2008^a)

The emphasis in the study was given on finding various causes leading to suicide decision. Hence to collect the detailed

information about selected victims the case study research design was used for the present investigation.

3.3 Sample and sampling plan

The present investigation was carried out in Buldana district of Vidarbha region of Maharashtra state. From Buldana district, Mehkar and Khamgaon tahsil were selected, because in these tahsils more legal suicide cases were reported as compared to other tahsils of the district. Location of selected tahsils is indicated in fig.1. From selected tahsils, four legal suicidal farmers each, (thus total eight suicidal farmers) were selected by random method of sampling, who committed suicide during 1st January 2008 to 31st December 2008 and had declared as a legal victims by district level committee headed by Collector of the Buldana district, for allotting compensation of Rs.1 lakh and their family members had got Rs.1 lakh compensation. In this study, respondents were the households of selected victim.

Before sampling, researcher had contacted personally to the collector office of Buldana district and obtained the complete list of farmers who committed suicide during 1st January 2008 to 31st December 2008. In all, there were 197 total suicide cases, out of which more legal suicide cases were reported in Mehkar and Khamgaon tahsil, hence from these tahsil four each, thus total eight legal suicidal cases were selected by random sampling method.

The detail tahsil wise total suicide, legal suicide and selected suicide cases have been given in Table. 2 and the detail list of the selected victims have been given in Table. 3

Table 2. Tahsilwise suicide cases and selected cases for case study

Sr. No.	Name of tahsil	Total suicide cases	Legal suicide cases	No. of cases selected
1	Buldana	38	03	
2	Chikhali	35	03	
3	Deulgaon Raja	08	03	
4	Jalgaon Jamod	14	02	
5	Khamgaon	31	05	04
6	Lonar	6	02	
7	Malkapur	6	04	
8	Mehakar	13	09	04
9	Motala	10	05	
10	Nandura	11	03	
11	Sangrampur	5	00	
12	Sindkhed Raja	9	03	
13	Shegaon	10	02	
	Total	197	44	08

Table 3. List of selected legal victims for case studies.

Sr. No.	Name of victim	Village	Tahsil
1	Ravindra Vitthal Khekde	Nilegaon	Khamgaon
2	Shivram Raghoji Jadhao	Hingna Karegaon	Khamgaon
3	Kishor Sahdeo Tathe	Makta	Khamgaon
4	Prabhakar Namdeo More	Pimpri Korde	Khamgaon
5	Ramesh Namdeo Ingle	Pimpri Mali	Mehkar
6	Digambar Mangu Rathod	Pardi	Mehkar
7	Damodhar Kundlik Surse	Shivpuri	Mehkar
8	Digambar Dattatraya Saubhage	Malipeth	Mehkar

3.3.1 Pre testing of interview schedule

Considering all the aspect of working objectives, interview schedule was pretested with three households who lost their family head and who were belonging to other than selected samples. The data were observed and the difficult questions were modified from interview schedule

as per the experience of pretest. In this way after pre-testing, interview schedule was finalized (Annexure I).

3.4 Variable studied

The personal, socio-economic, psychological and situational variable was studied like age, caste, education, family type, family size, land holding, type of land, annual income, agriculture infrastructure, irrigation facilities, subsidiary occupation, socio-economic status, indebtedness, cropping pattern, productivity, habits, disputes, responsibilities fulfilled etc. were studied.

In addition to these various aspects related to suicide incidence with selected victim was noted and put up in individual case study.

3.5 Development of interview schedule

Construction of interview schedule and collection of data were the important aspect and the basis for the social research. The present research study was based on case study research design of social research, hence the researcher have to collect detailed information about various aspects about selected victims, from family households, key informants and from other sources. Hence the interview schedule was prepared with a great caution so that it becomes perfect as per the objectives set in for the investigation and some new aspects that are not included in the schedule that information was noted separately on last page of the schedule, as per their occurrence in each case.

3.6 Collection of data

As suicide is a sensitive social issue, the investigation has to be made with very guarded and careful manner, and without hurting the sentiments of the family. Data were collected by personal interview method with the help of structured interview schedule. Interview was conducted at residence of respondent so as to review over all situation of the family by researcher. In addition to personal interview, RRA technique, time line study for historical perspectives, observations, discussions with family

members and discussions with key informants (Police Patil, Sarpanch, Local leaders, other farmers of that village), reviewing victims' actual records of institutional debts etc. were some important methods used for data collection.

The data collection from those households who lost their family head or member was a very difficult and challenging task. It was performed by the researcher in March 2009 and the obtained information of each suicidal farmer was placed in each case with story or essay form in Result and Discussion chapter.

* * * * *



Fig. 1 Map showing locale of study

CHAPTER IV

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results obtained in the present investigation have been presented in this chapter and are elaborately discussed by taking into account the study objectives. The data were collected from eight victims' household from 8 villages of Khamgaon and Mehkar Tahsil of Buldana district. The data, observations and the facts obtained about each individual victim have been presented through various angles and placed in story form, under following subheads.

- 4.1 Case study of late Shri. Ravindra Vitthal Khekde
- 4.2 Case study of late Shri. Shivram Raghoji Jadhav
- 4.3 Case study of late Shri. Kishor Sahdev Tathe
- 4.4 Case study of late Shri. Prabhakar Namdeo More
- 4.5 Case study of late Shri. Ramesh Namdeo Ingle
- 4.6 Case study of late Shri. Digambar Mangu Rathod
- 4.7 Case study of late Shri. Damodhar Kundlik Surushe
- 4.8 Case study of late Shri. Digambar Dattatray Saubhage

4.1. Case study of late Shri. Ravindra Vitthal Khekde

Age	:	30 years
Village	:	Nilegaon
Tahsil	:	Khamgaon
District	:	Buldana
Date of death	:	July 25, 2008

"A crowd was assembled to see the tractor, purchased by borrowing money from bank, as it was the first tractor in village" said victim's father. Ravindra, 30 years belongs to '*Kunbi*' caste. He was medium farmer cultivated *Bt. Cotton* in kharif on four acre of land out of 10 acre that he owned. Due to vagaries of nature, in general and particularly due to deficit rain at germination he was forced for respectively-sowing as the germination was very poor. In order to gain secured earnings and to defeat the loss from the repeated failure of the farming, he purchased a tractor recently in October, 2007, by investing 4.30 lakhs with the intention to provide the services on rental basis. A family of twelve members along with Ravindra depended on the farming to earn the living. As his annual income was Rs. 27,000 including subsidiary occupation, he took crop loan of Rs. 20,000 from Buldana District Co-operative Bank and Rs. 17,000 from Baroda Bank in last two years. His debt had touched to the tune of Rs. 4.67 lakhs of which Rs. 12,000 waive under PM package.

Victim had 10 acres farm land of which 4 acre with deep soil was seasonally irrigated which was depend on river water, but there was insufficient supply of water due to dam in the river and remaining 6 acre with shallow type soil was purely rely on rain water. From Kharif season of 2007 he got only 12 quintals cotton from 4 acres. Thus productivity counted to 3 q/acre, which was low as compared to local productivity of 5 q/acre. And from remaining 6 acre land he re-sown 5 acre under *Bt* cotton. But it was failed due to the whimsical behaviour of nature. So he turned towards sunflower on the same piece of land, from which he got 6 quintals yield and the productivity was counted 1.2 q/acre which was very low as compared to local productivity 4.5 q/acre. In the next season he tried to raise onion on 3 acre irrigated land but again failed, also the cut off of electricity for 14 to 16 hours regularly in village, affected irrigation to crop

resulting in drying of onion crop. In what turned out to be a gamble, he invested Rs. 35,000 on the cotton crop. This increased the burden of Ravindra enormously. He took the loan from the bank (2007) with the intension that the yield might be good and he could clear all the debts. But his intension was wrong and the crop failed. Last season again he took crop loan with the thought that the crop would fetch a handsome price. Again nature played truant and crops were ravaged, also the tractor purchased for subsidiary occupation failed to turn into profitable business. Ravindra was in deep thought to manage the amount of Rs. 4.67 lakhs and had such talk with his neighbour Gajanan Patil. And his own relatives consoled him about this matter.

Nisha (25), victims' wife said that he was already burdened by debts incurred in 2007, when he purchased tractor. Nisha was suffering from blood pressure from last two years so she was under medical treatment. The couple had two daughters named Samiksha age 3 years and Sakshi age 5 years. Regular crop loss for two years, increasing price of seed and fertilizers, the paucity of labours for various farm activities, increasing cultivation cost, because of all these reasons Ravindra was worried and continuously under pressure for repaying the loans. In such circumstances, on the morning of July 25, Ravindra was found lying near his house steps, barely conscious; he told his father that he had consumed insecticide. His father and brother took him quickly to Government Hospital at Khamgaon, 15 km away from village, during the treatment he died. "The doctor told that he drunk alcohol and had not taken food from the morning so he (Doctor) failed to save him" informed villagers. The people in village shocked by his suicide as he was the most hard worker and helpful in nature among the other village people.

Ravindra's wife, Nisha, who had gone back to her natal house permanently and also refused to bear the responsibility of two daughters. Now she took decision of second marriage so that the responsibilities of the two daughters fall on Ravindra's parents. As they are old, they cannot work properly and unable to perform better to hold the responsibilities of the grand daughters. The pressure increases day by day, to repay the loan of tractor by the bank. While describing this critical condition, Ravindra's



Plate : 1 Family members of deceased farmer Late Shri. Ravindra Vitthal Khekde, from Village – Nilegaon, Tahsil – Khamgaon, Dist- Buldana.

father can't control his tears. The members of the family demanded that, when there is crop failure due to any natural calamity, Government should waive off the total crop loans of farmers, which help to minimize the suicide numbers.

CONCLUSION

Ravindra was tensed due to unprofitable business of tractor from last seven months, as he purchased tractor on loan of Rs. 4.30 lakhs in October 2007. Because of the poor yield in kharif season and crop loss in Rabi season of year 2007, he was in continuous distress and unable to pay the installment of tractor loan. In this condition Ravindra consumed insecticide and ended his life on July 25th 2008.

4.2 Case study of late Shri. Shivram Raghoji Jadhav

Age	:	70 years
Village	:	Hingna Karegaon
Tahsil	:	Khamgaon
District	:	Buldana
Date of death	:	June 15, 2008

A semi-medium farmer Shivram Raghoji Jadhav was Nav-Buddha from village Hingna Karegaon, had vast experience of farming, near about 55 years. There was not educational background in his family, and he had taken education only upto 3rd standard and his wife was illiterate. "His wife was not with him, from last 10-12 years, due to some dispute between them and from that time he was with us said 'Vadana', Shivram's daughter in law. Shivram had five sons among them, Shivram lived with fourth number son named Vijay. In victim family, there was dividation of land out of which 7 acres in Shivram favour but this land was cultivated by his son Vijay. The land was situated at different location, so the soil varies from deep to shallow. Out of 7 acres land the 3 acres was irrigated seasonally and the remaining 4 acres was rainfed. For irrigation they depended on canal water which pass nearby their farm land, but it was not available for all seasons.

The annual income of his family from farming was Rs. 24,000. They also involve in supplementary occupation like wages from which they got Rs. 22,000, but this was seasonally. Shivram was now old so from last four- five years he was not involved in the various farms practices. In the last year from Kharif he got four quintals of *Bt.* cotton from four acres so productivity counted to one q/acre which was very low as compared to local productivity of 12 q/ha and from remaining one and half acre he could get 1 quintal millet and from one and half acres he got 1 quintal sesame. Its productivity was low compared to local productivity of millet 7 q/ha and sesame 6 q/ha. In Rabi he got 7 quintals wheat from 3 acres, yield was low as compared to local productivity 23 q/ha. "The production was low due to the eccentric behavior of nature" said Vijay.

Shivram was head person in his family as his age increased, he would not involve in farm activity, so his farm land was under the observation of his son Vijay. So there was mutual dealing of debt on his name. He took Rs. 20,000 from Co-operative society and Rs. 12,000 from Bank of Baroda, as crop loan but failed to repay the loan, because of the low productivity and not offering a handsome price of its. From last three years he was under medical treatment as his both kidneys were failed. He was under treatment in private hospital, so he was completely disgusted and deep in thought. The yield loss, seeds and fertilizers price raised, it increased the cost of cultivation said Vijay. He was enfeebled by spending more money for his medical treatment. Shivram could not sustain himself with these losses and his increased regular spending of money on his medical treatment, resulted in hanging himself on tree behind the primary school of village.

Shivram's wife was living separately, from last 12 years due to some quarrel with Shivram but after the death of Shivram, she came to the village and now there was a dispute in relation to the claim on compensation money between Vijay (Victim son) and victim's wife. The members of the family demanded that, the loan of the farmer having the land holding above 5 acres should be considered for waiving off the total loans, under PM Package.



Plate : 2 Family members of deceased farmer Late Shri. Shivram Raghoji Jadhav, from Village – Hingna karegaon, Tahsil – Khamgaon, Dist- Buldana.

Conclusion

Shivram was old aged and suffering from a disorder of kidney failure, he was worried about the rising expenses to cure his ailment. Also he had an outstanding loan of Rs. 32,000 from formal source but was not able to repay due to crop loss and he had no moral support of his wife who stayed away from him since last 12 years, in this condition Shivram hanged him and ended his life.

4.3 Case study of late Shri. Kishor Sahdev Tathe

Age	:	30 years
Village	:	Makta
Tahsil	:	Khamgaon
District	:	Buldana
Date of death	:	June 15, 2008

A young medium farmer Kishor, belongs to 'Kunbi' caste and looking after all the agrarian operations and managing a landholding of 15 acres for last 12 years. The family purchased two acres land in the year 2005, adjacent to his own farm land. The eldest son 'Rajesh' in the family was engaged in the job on contract basis at Khamgaon tahsil office, who was not interested in farming as there was no perpetuity of good income from it and the younger son Kishor was cultivating total 15 acres of land. Kishor was hard worker as he covers two acres of farm land under irrigation out of 15 acres from last five years. He used advanced practices on his farm and acquired scientific knowledge about farming and people from village took advice from him on various agricultural related problems though he had completed his education upto higher secondary level only. There was 13 acres of rainfed land and remaining 2 acres is irrigated. For this they had to depend on well water with help of electric motor. A family of seven member participated in various farm activities with help of bullock pair along with some basic farm implements, from which they earn Rs. 1 lakh annually, which fulfill near about all the basic needs of his family, and also he was married before three months of suicide.

However the entire burden of the decision making in the context of agrarian operations has fallen on the Kishor alone. His father became aged, could not participate in it and his eldest brother not interested in agriculture due to the uncertainty of yield. He took loan on account of crop to the tune of Rs. 35000 from Buldana district co-operative bank in kharif season of 2007. The loan could not be repaid due to the low productivity "Actually the attitude of Kishor was against taking the debt but poor economic condition forced him to take loan, which stress him to think again and again to repay the loan" said Kishor's father. As in kharif season of previous year he got 13 quintals of non *Bf.* cotton from 5 acres, whose productivity counted to be 6.5 q/ha which was very low as compare to local productivity of 12 q/ha of cotton, in another 5 acres he could get 16 quintals soybean whose productivity in local area was 20 q/ha. Sunflower in one acre yield 5 quintals. However, in Rabi season he could get six quintals wheat from one acre, which yield was low compare to local productivity of wheat 22 q/ha, due to the inadequate supply of water. As the yield decreased the cost of cultivation increased from the last two years which led to raise huge problem of arranging money for next cultivation, pushed him under thought regularly. Before three years his niece was killed by setting her on fire by her husband. The incident made the victim unsteady. As he was moody in nature, some time not follow the instructions of the elders and do what ever he wants" said victim's brother.

His brother noticed that Kishor was in deep thought after his marriage. He was not able to repay the loan, because low productivity of the farm and eccentric behavior of nature. Increase in cost of cultivation, increase the burden on the victim's enormously, and he hanged himself on tree near well on his own farm on the morning of June 15. After the death of Kishor his brother Rajesh resigned the job and took all the responsibilities. Now Rajesh was trying to repay the loan by working hard on his farm and presently the wife of Kishor has gone back to her natal house permanently. The members of the family demanded that, There is an urgent need to declare immediately remunerative prices for all crops of farmers in consonance with the cost of cultivation. Presently cost of



Late Shri. Kishor Sahdeo Tathe



Plate : 3 Family members of deceased farmer Late Shri. Kishor Sahdeo Tathe,
from Village – Makta, Tahsil – Khamgaon Dist- Buldana.

cultivation increases by many folds due to steep rise in the cost of inputs, but the price of farm produce was not raised proportionately.

Conclusion

Kishor was moody in nature and disturbed by the incidence of his niece. He was under stress due to low productivity, unavailability of water for crop and his behavior of self conceit leads him to choose the way of suicide by hanging.

4.4 Case study of late Shri. Prabhakar Namdeo More

Age	:	55 years
Village	:	Pimpri Korde
Tahsil	:	Khamgaon
District	:	Buldana
Date of death	:	December 29, 2008

Prabhakar Namdev More, was Nav- Budha of fifty five years old. He was the head person in his family of six members. He was semi-medium farmer, owned eight and half acres of farm land which was depend on rain water only, out of which 4 acre was rocky land, so not possible to cultivate any crop in it and the remaining four and half acre cultivated by family which fulfill the partial requirements of family. The family head started working as a mason from last 10-12 years. He also worked along his family member as agricultural labour, from these various activities victim managed the expenditure of his family. Victim's 26 years old daughter was physically challenged. She cannot understand what was going on around her and unable to manage herself properly. His another daughter married before two years, shifted from her husband's home to her natal house because of some quarrel between them along with one child of age 3-4 months. Victim had good contacts with others in the society and cannot sustain himself due to the ignominy from his daughter's event. He had also sons, who were taking education in neighbouring village.

The daughter of victim was physically challenged and was worried about the rising expenses on her and one person from family had

to watch on her. For this purpose he borrowed Rs. 15,000 from money lender before one and half years. He was hard worker, along with farming he worked as mason also working as agriculture labour. From this he managed to repay the loan of moneylender with interest. In kharif season of 2007 he borrowed Rs. 35,000/- from co-operative society, and cultivated cotton along with pigeonpea as intercrop but due to a stranger and unaccountable act of nature and particularly deficit rain at germination, forced him to re-sowing as the first sowing operation failed. Also he cultivated millet and jowar which yielded very low due to the deficit rain. However, the yield was low in consecutive years. As the crop failure, he cannot manage money. "So he was in deep thought and cannot communicate properly in his family because of rising expense of his daughter's treatment and feeling of ignominy and decreased in social status as his married daughter came back to his (victims) home" informed his wife. The money lender increased the pressure five months before suicide of victim, from that the family was under tremendous pressure to repay the loan. However, the total loan amount of Rs. 50,000 from money lender and formal institution rises question how to repay?

Crop failure from last two years led him to distress. Also he was despair as he did not have enough money to invest in agriculture and for his daughter treatment and was stressed due to high debts which led him to suicide by consuming insecticide on December 29. There was drop in economic status of victim family after death so, his eldest son Sanjay migrated seasonally to Mumbai in search of work to earn money. For this he stopped his education after 10th standards. Now he took all the responsibilities of his family. By doing some work in village his younger brother Surendra helped him economically on small extent and tried to repay the loan. Along with this there was responsibility of both sisters on him. Victim's wife was shocked, due to which she was not in state to do any work. The members of the family demanded that, unproductive land should be considered by the Govt. for loan waiving under PM Package.



Plate : 4 Family members of deceased farmer Late Shri. Prabhakar Namdeo More, from Village – Pimpri korde, Tahsil – Khamgaon, Dist- Buldana.

Conclusion

Prabhakar was worried due to use of only half farm land among 8.50 acres and crop loss, which increases the pressure of money lender on him. He feels ignominy and decreased social status as his married daughter came back to his home, however, he was not able to manage the rising expense on his handicapped daughter and farming activities, led him to frustration in which he committed suicide on December 29, 2008.

4.5 Case study of late Shri. Ramesh Namdeo Ingle

Age	:	40 years
Village	:	Pimpri mali
Tahsil	:	Mehkar
District	:	Buldana
Date of death	:	July 04, 2008

Ramesh Namdeo Ingle, a semi medium farmer of 40 years (in official record age noted 35 years) belongs to Mali caste. He has three brothers, two of them were government employee so not living in village and the one who stayed in village had grocery shop from last 8-10 years. They had total 08 acres of land which was on deceased and his brother's name and had been cultivated by victim and his brother collectively, who run grocery shop in village. There was no water body on his land so, it depended on rain water and the soil was shallow type. The various agrarian operations had done with equal contribution of money from both and further the yield gained was distributed equally. Victims' family was totally dependent on agriculture also he and his wife undertook agricultural wages work apart from it. Ramesh had three daughters and a son, along with his wife the family lived in one room house of unplastered brick-wall of tin roof adjacent to his brothers' home and his house need much repairing.

Victim's eldest daughter was married before two and half year, to fulfill the demand of dowry and other expenses he borrowed a loan of Rs. 90,000/- from State Bank of India on account of farm land and Rs. 18,000/- from relatives, the total amount of Rs. 1,08,000/- was expended on his

daughters marriage, he was also aware of his children's education. In kharif season of 2006 there was insufficient yield that's why he paid little amounting of bank loan but continuously in thought of loan. According to villagers, "suddenly there was change in his behaviour after the marriage of his daughter as he was mentally disturbed, for this purpose he collected Rs. 22,000/- from his relatives to expend on it. The victim is said to have buckled under the pressure of mounting debts of daughters' marriage and increasing expense on illness. His main source of earning was farming. There was low yield of soybean counted to 17 quintals from 4 acres, at the movement he was despaired and loose his mental stability completely due to increased burden of debt. He also had frequent altercation with his wife and the financial state of affairs at home was grim. In such circumstances victim's wife must arrange the rising expenses on his ailment, farming and children education. Day by day victim's altercation increased with his and he moved here and there in village without any motto. Now the villagers said he was mentally unstable, in this condition he made failure attempt of suicide before 3 months of death by consuming insecticide and luckily he was saved but there was no change on his behavior and was deranged mentally. In his second attempt he hanged himself in his own farm on July 04, 2008.

Now the victim's 16 years son stopped his education and helping economically to his family, victim's daughters is in school and victims wife was cultivating their farm land with help of brother in law. Now the victims, brother helped his family in repaying the loan amount. The household of the deceased farmer stated that special kind of loan should be issue by the government for the marriage of the daughter/ sister from various banks as suggestion for avoiding suicides.

Conclusion

Due to huge expend of money on daughter's marriage and farming" as the only source played deceitfully due to deficit rain, his all hopes to repay loan was collapsed and he was under pressure which made led him mentally unstable, diverting towards the action of suicide by consuming insecticide but failed and at second time he hanged himself till death on his own farm on July 04, 2008.



Plate : 5 Family members of deceased farmer Late Shri. Ramesh Namdeo Ingale, from Village – Pimpri mali, Tahsil – Mehkar, Dist- Buldana.

4.6 Case study of late Shri. Digambar Mangu Rathod

Age	:	50 years
Village	:	Pardi
Tahsil	:	Mehkar
District	:	Buldana
Date of death	:	July 10, 2008

Digambar Mangu Rathod, belongs to Banjara caste. He was good farmer, conducts new experiments on his farm and interested to collect new knowledge related to farming by attaining the various demonstrations conducted by private company or agriculture department in his area and also people surprised by seeing his various experiments on his farm as he had completed his primary education only. As part of it, he cultivated orange orchards before one and half years on one and half acres out of six and half acres that he owned and recently receive one installment of its subsidy. He had two married sons lived along with him as joint family. The eldest son in family worked along with victim and younger has job in shop at Janephal, five km. away from village. Both the victim and his son engaged him self in various agrarian operations on own farm, of which three and half acres was seasonally irrigated and remaining three acres was rain fed, but victim was worried as water level in well decreases from last six months on which his orange orchard was depended. According to his way of behavior some time he success or failed, for this purpose he borrowed a loan of Rs. 30,000/- from co-operative bank and on his son's account Rs. 20,000/- from State Bank of India in last 2 to 3 years.

He had gone through triple sowing of *Bt*. Cotton in kharif season of 2007 and at the time of triple sowing as the first and second sowing operations, failed he borrowed Rs. 35,000 from private money lender at the rate of interest 5% per month. However, the result of sowing failed as he could get only 3 quintals of cotton from 2 acres and sold in private market for Rs. 2450/- and not at the government centre where the price is Rs. 2600/- because there will be delay in receiving money and they have to pay for the expenses or loans made for inputs like seeds, fertilizers and pesticides, informed victims son. Also other crops like soybean, mung etc. production was less and amount in hand by selling cotton is too less to

repay loan which increase pressure on him as the interest on debt, increased day by day. Since then he was more diverted towards the addiction of alcohol and irritated quickly. "To earn some money in this critical condition he started a business of selling alcohol in his own and adjacent village" informed the villagers but unable to manage the money to repay loan. At the same time his daughter in law undergone an operation of appendicitis and unable to work on field, for this purpose he took Rs. 25,000/- from same money lender. According to villagers 'before the unfortunate event, the moneylender had indicated that he wanted the money returned and the deceased felt humiliated about the manner in which it was done in public'. After the event he sold 3 acres land in order to pay the money lenders debt of Rs. 60,000/-.

After the event the victims had only 3 acres of land and he was in despair as he did not had enough money to invest in agriculture and stressed due to debt and stunted growth of orchard because of decrease water level in well, although the financial condition at home was grim which forced him to commit suicide by drinking pesticide on his own farm on evening of July 10, 2008. The eldest son of victim repayed the debt of Rs. 20,000/- on his name and tried to repay another by working hard. Also his brother helped him in various agrarian operation by managing his job, although victims wife was shocked due to this event and cannot participate in any work and communicate improperly with family member, now she was living separately after the death of her husband. Easy procedure for obtaining institutional loan is required, suggested by the family members of the victims.

Conclusion

Victim was buckled in increased debt and crop failure led him to distress, also the behaving nature of money lender among people feeling his own social standing decreased which made him to take decision of suicide by consuming pesticides on his own farm at evening on July 10, 2008.



Plate : 6 Family members of deceased farmer Late Shri. Digambar Mangu Rathod, from Village – Pardi, Tahsil – Mehkar, Dist- Buldana.

4.7 Case study of late Shri. Damodhar Kundlik Surushe

Age	:	45 years
Village	:	Shivpuri
Tahsil	:	Mehkar
District	:	Buldana
Date of death	:	June 06, 2008

A forty years old Damodhar Kundlik Surushe the household head, belongs to Kunbi caste and looking after all the agrarian operations and managing a landholding of 40 acres in family of 10 members which was well known joint family in village Shivpuri. He was big farmer owning 40 acres of farm land of which eight acres was irrigated seasonally on river water, with help of electric motor and the remaining thirty two acres was rain fed used to cultivate only in kharif season. The farm land located at different location so it was difficult to manage all land. Damodhar's younger brother helped him in the various agrarian operations. Victim was the eldest in the family; the entire burden of the decision-making in the context of agrarian operations on him, also he was member in grampanchayat of Shivpuri. The whole family depend on farming for daily expenditure from which they earned near about Rs. 2,00,000 annually. Damodhar has eldest daughter of marriageable age (21 years), but at age of 15 years she paralyzed. Since then she was under medical treatment but there were no sign of any improvement in her so far. He invested some money on education of his son's of age 9 years and 12 years as he had completed his secondary school only.

After death of his father, he completed his responsibilities by arranging marriage of his sisters as he was eldest in family with balancing the medical expenses of his ailing daughter. He was good farmer doing job with some basic farm implements with 3 bullock pairs. However, he was good leader as he elected unopposed in Shivpuri Grampanchayat as member and held the post of education president in recent election of year 2008. His social dignity was good as he was respected person in village. He borrowed Rs. 25,000 from co-operative society before one and half years of suicide to manage the expense of his daughter illness, to cure her. He met various expert doctors, but did not get positive result in his hand,

due to which he was frustrated and in addition to this before three years his one sister was killed by her husband which led him mentally disturbed. In his farm land he cultivated cotton, soybean, tur but the decreased yield due to deficit rain and eccentric behavior of nature, let him to increase in smoking of *bidi*. "Damodhar had not discussed his problems with his family members, and he also worried about marriage of his daughter as her other friends got married during last 1-2 years, increased his worry about his daughter.

Damodhar was worried about the marriage and illness of his daughter and rising expense on it also added to his mental trauma due to which he had lost his mental stability which then led him to take extreme action of suicide by hanging himself on first floor of his house when no one was there at the evening of June 06,2008. At present after one year of Damodhars death his two sons were studying, one is in fifth and other is in ninth standard, an eldest daughter was under medical treatment and the loan borrowed was repaid by his younger brother as he held responsibilities of whole family after his death.

Conclusion

Damodhar's daughter lost her walking power suddenly due to unknown cause at age of 15 years, since then she was under medical treatment but didn't get positive result, and before three years of suicide, his one sister was killed by her husband. As his daughter was of a marriageable age and there was no sign of cure of her illness let him unstable from last one and half year. All this led him to take extreme step of suicide by hanging in his own house.



Plate : 7 Family members of deceased farmer Late Shri. Damodhar Kundlik Surushe,
from Village – Shivpuri, Tahsil – Mehkar, Dist- Buldana.

4.8 Case study of late, Shri. Digambar Dattatray Saubhage

Age	:	35 years
Village	:	Malipeth (Mehkar)
Tahsil	:	Mehkar
District	:	Buldana
Date of death	:	March 12, 2008.

A marginal farmer Digambar Dattatray Saubhage, aged 35 years belonged to Mali caste. Owned one and half acres of land near Malipeth, which was old part of Mehkar. The farm land was irrigated seasonally by well water. He was facing the problem of insufficient water since last 5 to 6 years. The deceased had one and half acres of land and leased in an additional 2 acres adjacent land from last 3 years. There were five members in his family. He wanted, to educate children. Only he and his wife were involved in various agrarian operations with the help of one bullock pair and some farm implements. Apart from, they also undertook agricultural wages work also he was engaged in some other work to fulfill the daily requirement of his family because he got only Rs. 27,000/- annually from farming. The victim's mother was suffering from heart disease for last two years and also gone through one heart attack before 6 months of victims' death and his son was suffering regularly from fever. However, he managed the expenses on them in every condition" said his wife. Before one and half years his father was died due to T.B. (Tuberculosis) known from neighbors.

He faced difficulties in managing the rising expenses on medical treatment of both and also the expenses on various agrarian operations, so he incurred a loan to the tune of Rs. 26,000/- from Buldana district co-operative bank as a crop loan in kharif season 2006. In kharif season 2007 he got 3 quintals low quality soybean due to uncertainty of rain and hence, failed to get handsome price. But in this condition he had returned some money and wanted to return some further amount, but bank people insisted that he should return whole amount, informed 'Kishor' his neighbour. Although in rabi season he was not able to receive the loan amount and got only 2 quintals of wheat from own land. He discussed with his wife, "the yield was affected due to deficiency of water, also the regular

load shedding problem of electricity and for rabi season he bought seeds and fertilizers on credit". Also he cultivated leased land from which no sufficient yield was gained and led him continuously under pressure to repay loan. However, he was head person in family, had responsibility of son and daughters education who are 12 years and 10 years old respectively. Also his old mother was a heart patient, it made him depressed as he was not able to manage money for all the things, which increased his frustration and farming related anxiety lead him to commit suicide by hanging himself on his own farm near well on morning of March 12, 2008.

Now the family of victim after his death is dependent on the relatives and the owned one and half acres land was leased out to other as she was not able to manage various farm practices. Also there was problem of medical treatment of his son and his mother. When we visited their house for data collection, the family members had thought that bank officials came for the recovery of loan.

Conclusion

Digambar made all efforts to manage the rising expenses, to cure his son and mother ailment but he was failed. As he lost his father before 2 years due to tuberculosis so he was frightened about his son and mother but unable to manage money. On the other hand deceitful behaviour of nature resulted in low yield and not got handsome price of produce. It led to increased farming related anxiety and emotional feelings towards family member increased frustration in him, and he diverted towards suicide by hanging himself on his own farm near well at the morning of March 12,2008.



Plate : 8 Family members of deceased farmer Late Shri. Digambar Dattatraya Saubhage, from Town –Mehkar (Malipeth) , Tahsil – Mehkar, Dist- Buldana.

CHAPTER V

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

The present study "Farmers Suicide in Western Vidarbha : Case Studies" was conducted in Mehkar and Khamgaon tahsil of Buldana district of western vidarbha as this was one of the highly suicide prone districts of Vidarbha since last nine years. In Vidarbha, particularly in low rainfall and low irrigation tracts, farmers' suicides occurred in droves and the frightening phenomenon continued to persist and recur year after year, without any signs of abatement. Hence this issue has been important among thinkers, researchers and social workers. Why does this happen? Which are the real causes? For finding the answers to these questions, including studying the consequences after suicide of family head and by taking suggestions from victims' households to avoiding this tragic phenomenon, the current exercise was conducted in Buldana district with the following objectives.

5.1 Specific objectives of the study

The specific objectives of the study are given below.

1. To study personal, socio-economic, psychological and situational characteristics of the selected victims.
2. To study the causes of suicide of selected victims.
3. To study the consequences on the victims family.
4. To document the suggestions to prevent suicide in victims household.

5.2 Methodology

The case study method of social research was used in the present investigation. The victim was selected from Mehkar and Khamgaon tahsil of Buldana district of Western Vidarbha region. From these tahsils, four victims from each tahsil, thus eight victims were selected randomly from list of victims who committed suicide during January 2008 to December 2008. Data were collected by personally interviewing the victims' households with the help of pre tested and structured interview schedule. In

addition to these discussions, personal observations, key informants, time line study for historical perspectives etc. were some important methods used for data collection.

Findings of the present investigation are summarized as below.

Case no. 1

Case study of late Shri. Ravindra Vitthal Khekde

Thirty years Ravindra Vitthal Khekde belonged to Kunbi caste, lived in joint family of 10 members and was resident of Nilegaon in Khamgaon taluka of Buldana district. He committed suicide by consuming insecticide in his own house. This family had 10 acres of land of which 4 acres were irrigated seasonally with help of river water. The deceased had gone in for second sowing but the crop failed due to inadequate rain. He purchased tractor (Oct, 2007) by investing 4.30 lakhs with intention to provide the services on rental basis. Along with, he had an outstanding debt of Rs. 37,000/- from formal source. His debt had touched to the tune of Rs. 4.67 lakh of which, Rs. 12,000/- was waived under PM package. The deceased wife was suffering from Blood pressure and worried about the rising expenses to cure his ailment. Due to crop failure and paucity of wage labour in season, he was continuously under pressure and worried about increasing cost of cultivation and non-availability of river water. He committed suicide on 25.07.2008.

Study Conclusion

Rising debt and unprofitable business of tractor led him to commit suicide.

Case no. 2

Case study of late Shri. Shivram Raghaji Jadhav

Seventy years Shivram Raghaji Jadhav, was Nav-Buddha, resident of Hingna Karegaon village in Khamgaon taluka of Buldana district. He committed suicide by hanging himself behind primary school of village. He had 7 acre land of which 3 acre was seasonally irrigated (canal water). The wife of deceased was not with him since last 10-12 years due to some

dispute between them. Since then he was with his son Vijay. The deceased was suffering from problem of kidney failures, since last three years and low production offer less price due to which he get disgusted and absorbed in thought as he borrowed a loan of Rs. 32,000/- from formal source in previous 2 to 3 years. He was enfeeble by spending more money on his ailment and unable to repay loan due to which he was in despair condition. He committed suicide on June 15, 2008.

Study Conclusion

Shivram was not sustaining with rising expenses to cure his ailment and crop loss forced him to commit suicide.

Case no. 3

Case study of late Shri. Kishor Sahdev Tathe

Thirty years, young medium farmer Kishor Sahdev Tathe belonged to Kunbi caste and resident of Makta village in Khamgaon taluka of Buldana district. Victim committed suicide by hanging himself on his own farm near well. The deceased was looking after all the agrarian operations and managing a landholding of 15 acres of which 2 acres seasonally irrigated and the entire burden of the decision making in the context of agrarian operation has fallen on him. As a part he borrowed a loan of Rs. 35,000/- from formal source in kharif season of 2007 and could not repay due to crop loss for two consecutive years. According to his brother, victims were moody in nature, some time not follow instruction of elders and do what ever he want. He turned defaulter at beginning of year 2008 due to crop loss and due to mismatch between input cost and rising cost of cultivation led to increased burden of debt and frustration. He committed suicide on 15.06.2008.

Study Conclusion

Because of low productivity and moody nature of victim with self conceit behaviour, results in suicide.

Case no. 4

Case study of late Shri. Prabhakar Namdeo More

Fifty five years, Prabhakar Namdev More belonged to Neo-Buddist and was resident of Pimpri Korde village in Khamgaon taluka of Buldana district. The household head committed suicide by consuming insecticide. Victim had total landholding of eight and half acres of which 4 acres was rocky land, so not possible to cultivate any crop in it and the remaining was rainfed. Maximum amount from deceased earning was expended on his physically challenged twenty six years of daughter due to which he was addicted to drinking alcohol and smoking *bidi*. To manage expenditure of family he worked as mason in his village and also agricultural labour along with family members. Victim's one daughter was shifted from her husband house to her natal home because of some dispute between them along with one 3-4 month child, due to which he feels in, decreased his social standing. He was forced to second sowing as first failed because of scanty rain, at that time he borrowed a loan of Rs. 35,000/- from co-operative society and Rs. 15,000/- from money lender. He was worried about debt as crop failure and the other supplementary occupation not offered good earning, and also pressure of money lender increased. Due to feeling of ignominy and decreased social standing, he committed suicide on 10.07.2008.

Study Conclusion

The unproductive land with regular crop loss and disturb due to feeling of decreased social standing all these circumstance led him to commit suicide.

Case no. 5

Case study of late Shri. Ramesh Namdeo Ingle

Forty years Ramesh Namdev Ingle a semi medium farmer belonged to Mali caste lived in nuclear family and was resident of Pimpri Mali village in Mehkar taluka of Buldana district. He committed suicide by hanging himself. Victim had 3 brothers of which two were government employee and other one, run grocery shop with him. Deceased farmer

cultivate 8 acres rainfed land. Victim's eldest daughter was married before two and half years, to fulfill the demand of dowry and other expenses, he borrowed a loan of Rs. 90,000/- from state bank of India on account of farm land and Rs. 18,000/- from relatives. In the same year after marriage of his daughter he faces regular crop loss but paid some amount of bank loan. According to villagers "Suddenly there was change in his behavior after the marriage of his daughter and disturb mentally. For his treatment his wife collected Rs. 22,000/- from relatives. The victim not interested in any work and due to mentally unstable made failure attempt of suicide before 3 months of death by consuming insecticide and luckily saved, as he was derange mentally hence again attempted suicide by hanging himself on 04.07.2008.

Study Conclusion

The victim was deranged mentally after his daughter marriage and due to rising debt he committed suicide.

Case no. 6

Case study of late Shri. Digambar Mangu Rathod

Fifty years Digamber Mangu Rathod belonged to Banjara caste and was a resident of Pardi village in Mehkar taluka of Buldana district and committed suicide by consuming pesticide. The family has six half acres of land and outstanding debt of Rs. 20,000/- from a state bank and Rs. 60,000/- from private money lender. He had borrowed a loan for third sowing as first and second sowing failed. The deceased daughter in law had recently undergone an operation for Appendicitis and was in despair as he did not have enough money to invest in agriculture and was stressed due to high debts. Also he was addicted to alcohol. According to villagers "Before the unfortunate event the moneylender had indicated that he wanted the money returned and the deceased felt humiliated about the manner in which it was done in public". After the event he sold off 3 acres of land in order to pay off the debt. His orange orchard growth was stunted due to decrease in water level of well, although the financial condition at home was grim. He committed suicide on 10. 07.2008.

Study conclusion

Due to grim financial condition Digambar was unable to repay loan and commit suicide.

Case no. 7

Case study of late Shri. Damodhar Kundlik Surushe

Forty five years Damodhar Kundlik Surushe belonged to Kunbi caste. He was household head in family of 10 members, a well known joint family of village Shivpuri in Mehkar taluka of Buldana district. The household head looking after all the agrarian operations and managing a landholding of 40 acres, of which 8 acres was seasonally irrigated. He was member of Shivpuri Grampanchayat and has eldest daughter of marriageable age (21 years) who was physically challenged. He borrowed Rs. 25,000/- from co-operative society before one and half years of suicide. From last 2-3 years there was poor yield due to deficit rain. He was worried as there was no positive result of his daughter medical treatment and try for her marriage but not possible, due to which he felt decrease in his social standing which affected him mentally, also before three years his one sister was killed by her husband which lead him mentally disturbed and increased in his habit of smoking *bidi*. All the event make him mentally unstable and committed suicide by hanging himself in his own house on evening of June 06, 2008.

Study conclusion

Due to feeling of decreased social standing and pressure of daughter marriage disturb him mentally which lead to take extreme step of suicide

Case no. 8

Case study of late Shri. Digambar Dattatray Saubhage

Thirty five years Digamber Dattatray Saubhage, a young marginal farmer belonged to Mali caste and was a resident of Malipeth an old part of Mehkar town of Buldana district. The family had one and half acres of land seasonally irrigated and had leased-in additional 2 acres from last 3 years adjacent to his farm, apart from they also undertook agricultural wages work. Since from 2 years deceased mother suffering from heart problem and also gone through one heart attack. His son suffering regularly from fever, he managed expense on them in every condition as his father was died due to Tuberculosis before one and half years of suicide. Victim was worried due to the problem of irrigation. Although he borrowed a loan of Rs. 26,000/- in kharif season of 2006 and was not able to repay all the amount, also failed in managing rising expense on illness of his son and mother. He committed suicide by hanging himself in his own farm on morning of March 12, 2008.

Study Conclusion

The farming related anxiety and emotional feelings towards family members, increased frustration leads to commit suicide.

Overall Conclusion

On the basis of above eight case studies, the overall conclusion of the present research study is given as under following subheads.

Personal Characteristics of the victims

Out of the eight victims, four (50.00 %) were young (Upto 35 years); two (25.00%) were middle (36-50 years) aged and remaining two were old aged victims. Only one victim was found to reach educational standard up to higher secondary level and remaining having education upto seventh standard. All were married and exactly half of them were living in joint family. Farming with wage earning was the livelihood source with majority of the deceased farmers except one victim owned a tractor and

another one was engaged in mason work. Victims were possessing land in a range of 1.5 acres to 40 acres (0.5 to 10 ha.). More than half of them had seasonal irrigation facilities. The annual income ranges from Rs. 27,000 to Rs. 2.00 lakh. Almost all the victims were indebted and the debt ranges from a minimal of Rs. 25,000 to maximum of Rs. 4.67 lakh.

Three victims were alcoholic, two were smokers and remaining were free from bad habit. Out of eight, five victims were healthy and one was struggling with kidney failure and two were mentally disturbed. Unfortunately, those having good health were held the responsibility to take care of other sick family member. Thus it can be concluded that considerable proportion of victim were young, which increases seriousness magnitude of the suicides, they had low educational standard which forced them to earn their livelihood through traditional sources and unable them to enter in to new profession.

The suicide were observed irrespective of family types (either joint or nuclear), land holding (either marginal or large), annual income (either low or high), irrigation facility (either exists or not), and bad habits (either prevails or not).

Observed Causes of suicide

In continuation to earlier stated profile of the victims it can be inferred that cut throat indebtedness was most dominant cause for suicide. The indebtedness restricts the efficient future credit plans and low downs apparent value of the income. The low income and high debts declares farmers defaulters which in terms make them isolated and loss their identity which disturb them socially or mentally, in some cases loneliness, lack of moral support, self and family health problem, alcohol addiction, inability to fulfill the important family responsibilities were the identified causes which lead to them to turn towards suicide decision.

Consequences of suicides

Suicide is a social phenomenon it creates severe personal, social and economic consequences with family. The farmers, who committed suicide, were mostly the family heads and the main bread

earners of the family members. Due to the sudden death of family head by committing suicides some dreadful consequences were precipitated in family like social disturbances, unhealthy identity in social system, lower down the income, etc. were the common consequences observed with all family members of the victim.

Remedies

Suggestions for avoiding present spate of suicides perceived by the family members of the deceased farmers revealed that the majority family members of the deceased farmers suggested for remunerative prices to their farm produce, easy procedure for obtaining the institutional loan is required, considered the land holding above five acres for waving off crop lone under P.M package and provision/ creation of irrigation facilities as the important measures to be taken to prevent the recurrence of suicide tragedies in Vidarbha region of Maharashtra.

Thus the results of the above case studies pointed out that, the causes of suicide are complex, as are the causes of any social phenomenon. Many factors combine to cause, one particular individual (and not another) to divert his aggression upon himself in the form of suicide. Suicide of farmers was not a random or pointless act in study area, on the contrary, it was a way adopted by the deceased farmers to escape from various problems or a crisis that were invariably causing intense suffering to them. This study also concluded that causes of suicide were varying from case to case but the main reason behind all the causes was non profitable farming business that leads to indebtedness, non sustainable financial and social web.



CHAPTER VI

IMPLICATIONS

The present study entitled "Farmers Suicide in Western Vidarbha: Case Studies" was conducted in Buldana district of Western Vidarbha region. The implications have practical value and observed attention of planners, policy makers, administrator, researchers as well as extension workers. The implication emerged from the findings of the present study have been reported in two parts. The first part is concerned with the implication for action and second with the implication for research.

6.1 Implication for action

It was observed that suicide victims had no subsidiary occupations to support their livelihood and majority of them have medium to large family size. This implies that efforts are needed by respective line departments to involve such farmers in goat farming, dairy, and small poultry unit.

The results of study revealed that overall land holding of selected victim was found rain-fed hence their farming business was non sustainable due to uncertain productivity, hence all these family were found indebted. For improving this situation there is a need to bring the more land under irrigation by completing ongoing irrigation project, increasing network of canals, tanks, wells etc. which will definitely help for increasing crop production, productivity, and change in cropping pattern.

Due to erratic rainfall most of the crops fail. Hence it implies that when crops fail continuous for two seasons (Kharif-Rabi), then Government should give free inputs and complete waiving of interest on old crop loan to farmers in study area.

With one (12.50 %) victim inability to expense on marriage was noted. Hence this study implies that there is necessity to motivate the farmers for taking benefit of Mass Marriage Scheme of Government. It will definitely help to curtail huge expenses on marriages and other related social functions. NGO,s can play important role in this regard.

As some households reported that some time they do not get even the cost of cultivation from farm produce. So there is urgent need to declare immediately remunerative prices for all crops of farmers in consonance with the cost of cultivation.

6.2 Implication for future research

1. The present investigation was confined to a limited number of deceased farmers in Buldana district of Western Vidarbha. Hence the findings would be applicable to selected district and in such areas where similar type of conditions exists in respect of social and agro-climatic factors. There fore similar studies may be undertaken in other districts of the Maharashtra. It may help to bring out common specific causes and generalization thereupon for wide applications with large samples.

CHAPTER VII

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Date : 12/06/2009


Signature of student

Annexure - I
INTERVIEW SCHEDULE
(For:- Suicidal Farmers)

Title : Farmers Suicide in Western Vidarbha : Case Studies

Researcher : Rajput Mohjitsing Onkarsing (M.Sc. Agri. Ext. Education – II year)

1. **Name of the suicide Farmer** _____
Village _____ **Tahsil** _____ **District** _____
2. **Age** _____ Years, **Gender-** Male/ Female
3. **Marital status:** Married/ Unmarried
4. **Education** _____ Standard, 5. **Caste** _____
6. **Family Type** : Nuclear / Joint 7. **Family Members** _____
8. **Occupation** : a) Main : _____ b) Subsidiary _____
9. **Farming Experience** _____ years
10. **Date of suicide** _____
11. **Method of committing suicide :**

Sr. No.	Method	✓
1	Insecticide consumption	
2	Hanging	
3	Immolation (Burning)	
4	Drowning (in water)	
5	Other specify _____	

12. **Land holdings**

Sr. No.	Type of Land	Total owned Land (ha)	Own Land (ha.)		Reasons behind giving self land to others	Land taken on lease from others for cultivation (ha)
			Self cultivating	Given on lease to others		
1	Rainfed					
2	Irrigated (Seasonal)					
3	Irrigated (Annual)					
4						
	Total					

Whether deceased had purchased or sold any property during last 5 years

Sr.No.	Items	Purchased	If yes cost (Rs.)	Sold	If yes price received (Rs.)
1	Farm	Yes/No		Yes/No	
2	Housing Plot	Yes/No		Yes/No	
3	Farm Implement	Yes/No		Yes/No	
4	Animals	Yes/No		Yes/No	
5	Any other major items-- -----	Yes/No		Yes/No	

13. **Type of soils:** Very deep / Deep/ Moderately deep / Shallow/ Very shallow

14. Sources of Irrigation

Sr. No.	Sources of Irrigation	✓
1	No source	
2	River	
3	Well / Tube well	
4	Canal	
5	Others-----	

15. Annual Income : (previous year 2007-2008)

Sr. No.	Name of family member	Main occupation		Subsidiary occupation		Total Income Rs.
		Name of occupation	Income Rs.	Name of occupation	Income Rs.	
					Gross Total Income	

16. Livelihood pattern: (2007-2008)

- Seasonal Migration to urban areas / others areas for in search of work Yes/ No
- It yes
 - Where _____
 - No. of family members _____
 - Name of occupation _____
 - Period of Occupation _____
 - Income received Rs. _____

Sr. No.	Sources of income for livelihood of family	Annual income in Rs.	Annual expenditure on various items	Expenditure Rs.
1	Agriculture		Food	
2	Livestock		Clothing	
3	Wages		Housing	
4	Business		Education	
5	-----		Health	
			Travelling	
			Lighting	
			Religious functions	
			Agriculture (Crop cultivation)	
			Taxes ((House, water etc.)	
			Other specify-----	
	Total Income Rs.		Total Expenditure Rs.	

17. Productivity (During 2007-2008)

Sr. No.	Crop sown	Variety	Area in Acre			Total production qts.	Productivity qts/ha	Rate received Rs/. Qts.	Total Production in Rupees
			Irrigated	Rainfed	Total				
A.	Khairf								
1.	B.T. Cotton								
2	Non B.T. cotton								
3									
4									
5									
B.	Rabi								
1.									
2									
3									
C.	Summer								
1.									
2									
3									
D.	Fruit Crop								
1									

Reason for low productivity

20. Habits :

- i) Did the deceased had any bad habit Yes/ No
 ii) If yes

Sr. No.	Habits of suicide farmers	Period of habit formed	Frequency	
			Regular	Occasional
1	Smoking (Bidi/ Cigar/ _____)			
2	Chewing Tobacco			
3	Drug addition (Alcohol/ _____)			
4	Gambling (Jugar, Satta, _____)			
5	Other specify _____			

21. Victim's Health :

- i) Did the deceased farmer suffered from any health problem? Yes / No
 ii) If yes, mentioned the following

Sr. No.	Name of disease	Period of existence	Yearly expenditure Rs.
1			
2			
3			

22. Family Health

- i) Does family members of suicide farmer is suffering/ suffered from any chronic disease / handicapped by birth due to which they can not functioning normally Yes / No.
 ii) If yes mention the following

Sr. No.	Name of family member	Disease	Period of existence	Yearly expenditure Rs.
1				
2				
3				

23. Family Disputes :

- i) Have you observed any dispute/ quarrel with the family member (s), due to which family relations was broken Yes / No
 ii) If yes mentioned the following

Sr. No.	Name of family member having dispute/ quarrel	Give the reason	Mentioned the period (since from)
1			
2			
3			

Annexure – II

Brief information of the selected victims

Sr. No.	Name	Village	Tahsil	Date of Suicide	Method of Suicide	Age Years	Education	Marital status	Family type	Family member	Occupation	
											Main	Supplimentary
1	Ravindra Vitthal Khekade	nilegaon	khamgaon	25/07/08	Insecticide consumption	30	5th std	married	joint	12	farming	tractor
2	Shivram Raghoji Jadhav	hingna karegaon	khamgaon	15/06/08	Hanging	70	3rd Std	married	Nuclear	7	farming	Wages
3	Kishor Sahdeo Tathe	Makta	Khamgaon	15/06/08	Hanging	30	12th std	married	joint	7	farming	Wages
4	Prabhakar Namdeo More	Pimpri Korde	khamgaon	29/12/08	Insecticide consumption	55	1st std	married	Nuclear	5	farming	Wages Mason work
5	Ramesh Namdeo Ingle	Pimpri Mali	Mehkar	4/7/08	Hanging	35	6th std	married	Nuclear	5	farming	Wages
6	Digambar Mangu Rathod	Pardi	Mehkar	10/7/08	Insecticide consumption	50	3rd Std	married	joint	8	farming	Wages
7	Damodhar Kundlik Surushe	Shivpuri	Mehkar	6/6/08	Hanging	40	7th std	married	joint	10	farming	Wages
8	Digambar Dattatrai Soubhage	nilegaon	Mehkar	12/3/08	Hanging	35	7th std	married	Nuclear	5	farming	Wages

Sr. No.	Land Holding			Source of Irrigation	Annual Income			Source of Loans			Victim Habits	victim health	Family Heath	Other Respon-sibilites
	Rain-fed	Seasonally Irrigated	Total		Farming	Supplim- entry	Total	Formal Bank	Informal Moneylender & Relative	Total				
1	6	4	10	River	15000/-	12,000/-	27,000/-	4.67Lakh		4.67lakh	Alcohol	good	B.P.Problem to his wife	No
2	4	3	7	canal	24,100/-	22,000/-	46,100/-	32,000/-		32,000/-	No	Kidney Failure	Good	No
3	13	2	15	Well	1 Lakh		1 Lakh	35,000/-		35,000/-	No	good	Good	No
4	8.5		8.5	No Source	17,000/-	10,000/-	27,000/-	35,000/-	15,000/-	50,000/-	Smoking Alcohol	Good	Abnormal Daughter	Sons Edu. Daughter Treatment
5	8		8	No Source	17,000/-	9,000/-	26,000/-	90,000/-	40,000/-	130000/-	No	Psychiatric illness	Good	Daughter Edu. & Marriage
6	3	3.5	6.5	Well	18,000/-	15,000/-	32,000/-	50,000/-	60,000/-	110000/-	Alcohol	Good	Good	No
7	32	8	40	Well	200000/-		200000/-	25,000/-		25,000/-	Smoking	Mentally Disturb	Paralized Daughter	Sons Edu. Daughter Treatment
8	1.5		1.5	Well	15,000/-	12,000/-	27,000/-	26,000/-		26,000/-	No	Good	His Mother Medical Treatment	Childrens Education

Annexure - III
Farmers suicide chart of suicide prone six districts of Vidarbha (1-1-2001 to 31-12-2008)

Sr. No	Districts	1/1/2001 to 31/12/2001	1/1/2002 to 31/12/2002	1/1/2003 to 31/12/2003	1/1/2004 to 31/12/2004	1/1/2005 to 31/12/2005	1/1/2006 to 31/12/2006	1/1/2007 to 31/12/2007	1/1/2008 to 31/12/2008	Numbers of Farmers Suicide
1	Amravati	11	20	41	101	102	269	264	263	1071
2	Akola	6	7	21	46	43	174	125	165	587
3	Yawatmal	17	38	52	142	167	360	359	311	1446
4	Buldana	8	9	14	85	81	306	193	197	893
5	Washim	7	6	6	44	26	185	177	124	575
6	Wardha	3	24	14	29	26	154	128	88	466
	Total	52	104	148	447	445	1448	1246	1148	5038

Actual Farmers Suicide Cases considered by Government as Legal suicide (Genuine reason) in six districts of Vidarbha (1-1-2001 to 31-12-2008)

Sr. No	Districts	1/1/2001 to 31/12/2001	1/1/2002 to 31/12/2002	1/1/2003 to 31/12/2003	1/1/2004 to 31/12/2004	1/1/2005 to 31/12/2005	1/1/2006 to 31/12/2006	1/1/2007 to 31/12/2007	1/1/2008 to 31/12/2008	Numbers of Farmers Suicide
1	Amravati	7	16	22	49	59	78	74	64	369
2	Akola	5	7	15	39	37	81	51	78	313
3	Yawatmal	7	23	30	82	97	145	103	77	564
4	Buldana	4	6	12	38	39	99	42	47	287
5	Washim	7	5	6	29	25	108	24	30	234
6	Wardha	2	15	8	17	19	54	43	15	173
	Total	32	72	93	254	276	565	337	311	1940

As per Govt. Record (Anonymous, 2009^e)

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