

REASONS OF FARMERS SUICIDE IN JAYSHANKAR BHUPALPALLY DISTRICT OF TELANGANA STATE

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ABSTRACT

The study was conducted in Jayshankar Bhupalpally District of Telangana State to study the reasons of farmers suicide. Through quota sampling method 10 deceased farmers were selected at random, thus a total 120 respondents were selected from the selected ten villages to study the reasons of farmers suicide. The data was collected by personal interview method by using pre-structured interview schedule and latter appropriate statistical analysis was done to draw logical conclusion. The study revealed that majority of the deceased farmers (53.33%) belonged to old age group, 68.33 per cent were males, 43.34 per cent were illiterate, 39.17 per cent had small size of family (1-3 members). Most of the deceased farmers (38.33%) had small size (1-2.5 acres) of farm size while 35.84 per cent of the deceased farmers had medium size (2.5-5 acres) of farm size and 25.83 per cent of the deceased farmers had high (more than 5 acres) of farm size during the time of suicide. The major reasons for suicide are due to indebtedness (91.67%) and was ranked first, due to crop related issues(86.67%) and was ranked second, due to family problems ((79.17%) and was ranked third as reported by the victim's family.

KEYWORDS: Suicide, Victim, Reason

Article History

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INTRODUCTION

In India, the problems of farmers came to light in 1990 when the period of liberalization started. It is due to the liberalization and globalization that the import of food grains at cheaper prices has already begun and on the other side increased input costs while reducing yields and profits. Further the farmers in our country are forced to burn their ready crops right in the fields. The reason why they are doing so is that they are not able to get good price for their crops and sometimes the overall price which they get after selling their harvest falls far lower than the total sum invested by them in farming. In India, every year the farmers have to suffer huge losses either due to droughts, or floods or damage by pests and diseases. Whatever may be the reason so far for the loss of their crops, they end-up empty handed and many times fail to repay their debt as they borrow huge amount of money from moneylenders or from their landlords for their farming occupation coupled with the rising interest on their loan amount. In such a situation, they suffer from humiliation and in such a condition their persisting psychological agony forces them to commit suicide (Dealluck 2012).

Farmers are thus exposed to a high rate of stress. Physical stressors and hazards of the farm environment are compounded by regulatory framework and economic dynamics of managing farm business. These operate in the context of

declining trends of trade for agricultural produce, volatile commodity markets, limited availability of off-farm employment, growing cost of machinery and production and loss of farm or livelihood due to crop failures. Economic concerns and government bureaucracy have been consistently identified as a major cause of stress and a contributor to suicide. There is no customary or mandatory retirement age for farmers all over the world and many tend to work beyond the customary retirement age, placing the younger generation in a dependant relationship with their parents for much longer than is typical. This can lead to tension between the two generations on the farm. Roles between work, home and family are often blurred, with farming operating as an occupation and way of life for many farmers. Research had shown a relationship between monetary and family problems with suicide (Anjali 2017).

Agriculture not only provides employment to almost half of the population but it is also related to our food security. Inadequate return in agriculture has caused steep rise in migration from villages and about 40 per cent of the farmers would want to quit agriculture and take up some other career as a part of livelihood (Carleton 2017).

Telangana stands in the third position in number of farmers' suicides in the country according to NCRB and ADSI REPORT, 2019. Higher level of farmer suicides is ascribed to cotton cultivation and continuous drought. Out of the total farmer suicides in Telangana, 70 to 75 per cent are tenant farmers. All India Debit and Investment Survey 2019 revealed that incidence of indebtedness were alarming in Telangana with 64 per cent which is in top rank in the country.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The study was conducted in Jayshankar Bhupalpally District of Telangana State to study the reasons of farmers suicide.. Descriptive research design was adopted for the study as it describes the characteristics or phenomena that are being studied. Through quota sampling method 10 deceased farmers were selected at random, thus a total 120 respondents were selected from the selected ten villages to study the reasons of farmers suicide. The data was collected by personal interview method by using pre-structured interview schedule and latter appropriate statistical analysis (i.e. frequency, percentage, correlation, Rank based quotient (RBQ) etc.) was done to draw logical conclusion.

OBJECTIVES FOR THE STUDY

- To access the socio-economic profile of respondents.
- To determine the major reasons for farmers to commit suicide.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

1. To Access the Socio-Economic Profile of Respondents

Table 1: Socio-Economic Profile and Selected Independent Variables of the Respondents

S.No	Independent Variables	Category	Frequency	Percentage
1	Age	Young (18-35 years)	8	06.67
		Middle (36-50 years)	51	42.50
		Old (above 50 years)	64	53.33
2	Gender	Male	82	68.33
		Female	38	31.67
3	Education	Illiterate	52	43.34
		Primary school	30	25.00
		Secondary school	24	20.00
		Intermediate	11	09.16
		Graduate & above	03	02.50
4	Family type	Nuclear family	76	63.33
		Joint family	44	36.67
5	Family size	Small (1-3 members)	47	39.17
		Medium (4-6 members)	43	35.83
		Large (more than 6 members)	30	25.00
6	Ownership type	Owner	64	53.33
		Tenant	56	46.67
7	Farm size	Small (1-2.5 acers)	46	38.33
		Medium (2.6-5 acers)	43	35.84
		High (more than 5 acers)	31	25.83
8	Subsidiary occupation	Subsidiary occupation	22	18.33
		Non subsidiary occupation	98	81.67
9	Annual income	Low (upto 1 lakh)	26	21.67
		Medium (1-2 lakh)	70	58.33
		High (above 2 lakh)	24	20.00
10	Expenditure per month	Low (Rs.3000-8000)	91	78.33
		Medium (Rs.8000-13000)	21	17.50
		High (Rs.13000-18000)	5	4.17

From the table -1. It was found that 42.5 per cent of the respondents are under middle age group(36-50). Majority (68.33%) of respondents are male. It was found that 43.34 per cent of the respondents are illiterate. Majority (63.33) of respondents are It was found that 39.17 23 per cent of the respondents are under medium family (4-6). Majority (53.33%) of respondents are owners. It was found that 38.33 of the respondents are under small farm size (1-2.5 acres). Majority (81.67%) of respondents are under non subsidy occupation. Majority (58.33%) of respondents are having medium (2-3 lakh) annual income. Majority (78.33%) of respondents having low expenditure per month. Similar finding is also reported by **Ranade (2017)**.

1. To Determine the Major Reasons for Farmers to Commit Suicide.

Table 2: Major Reasons for Farmers to Commit Suicide

S.No.	Reason	A		UD		DA		Rank
		f	%	F	%	f	%	
1	Indebtedness	110	91.67	08	6.67	02	01.66	I
2	Crop related issues	104	86.67	10	8.33	06	05.00	II
3	Family problems	95	79.17	20	16.67	05	04.16	III
4	Illness	39	32.50	25	20.83	56	46.67	IV
5	Alcohol	25	20.83	24	20	71	59.17	V
6	Psychological Stress	14	11.67	20	16.67	94	78.33	VI
7	Education of children	13	10.83	45	37.50	62	51.67	VII
8	Social Insult	10	08.33	29	24.17	81	67.50	VIII
9	Property disputes	06	05.00	34	28.33	80	66.67	IX
10	Marriage related issues	03	03.33	09	07.50	108	90.00	X

From the above table was noticed that the major reasons for suicides in the study area are indebtedness, crop related issues, family problems. Remaining all other reasons were minor reasons. Various reasons have been offered to explain why farmers committed suicide in study area. No single cause was responsible for suicide but deceased farmers were motivated by more than one cause, on average three or more causes for committing suicide. Similar finding were also reported by **Behere (2018)**

CONCLUSION

It was concluded that majority of the deceased farmers were males and belonged to old age group and illiterate. Majority of respondents are belongs to nuclear family, had small size of land holdings, had low levels of annual income and their expenditure per month was also low. The major reasons for suicides are indebtedness, crop related issues, family problems. No single cause was responsible for suicide but deceased farmers were motivated by more than one cause, on average three or more causes for committing suicide. Extension agency is advised to make arrangements for extension workers to reside in villages and build good rapport with farming community and be available all the time for solving day to day problems and giving support which with help to relieve the stress of farmer.

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