



Nagindas Khandwala College
Of Commerce, Arts & Management Studies

Malad (West) , Mumbai – 400064

Project Report

ON

“TO STUDY THE CAUSES OF FARMER’S SUICIDE”

Presented by

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133

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Project Guide

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Declaration by Learner

I, **PRISHA SHAH** , Student of Nagindas Khandwala College, Semester
II of **FYBAF B** hereby declare that I have completed this project on
“**TO STUDY THE CAUSES OF
FARMERS SUICIDE**” in the Academic year 2022-2023

The information submitted is true and original to the best of my knowledge.

Signature of Student



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Certificate

I Ms. Krushita Desai hereby certify that Ms. Prisha Shah of **FYBAF Foundation course-II** Semester II of Nagindas Khandwala College has completed project on "TO STUDY THE CAUSES OF FARMERS SUICIDE" In the academic year **2022-2023**.

The information submitted is true and original to the best of my knowledge.

Prof. Krushita Desai

Project Co-Ordinator



College stamp

Mrs. Poonam Shah

BAF Co-Ordinator

Dr. Mona Mehta

Vice Principal

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

India is an agrarian country with around 70% of its people depending directly or indirectly upon agriculture. But farmers' suicides in India is worrying. Farmers suicide has always been a conventional problem in india . As per the Central Government despite a multi-pronged approach to improving income and social security of farmers, over 12,000 suicides were reported in the agricultural sector every year since 2013. Farmer suicides account for approximately 10% of all suicides in India. There is no denying that the menace of farmer's suicides exists and runs counter to the aspirations of reaping benefits of our demographic dividend. In this article, we are analysing the farmers' suicides in India and its related data, the reasons and the way forward. There are various reasons for farmer suicide ; A major cause of the farmers' suicides in India has been the increasing burden on the farmers due to inflated prices of agricultural inputs , cost of chemicals and seeds , cost of agricultural equipment and labour costs . There is an indispensable need of education and awareness among farmers .

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INTRODUCTION



In India, agriculture is the main industry. Nearly 70% of the people in India are directly or indirectly dependent on agriculture, making it a country with a mostly agrarian economy. A farmer/cultivator is someone whose profession is farming and includes those who cultivate on leased land or others' land with or without the help of agricultural labourers.

Farmer suicide in India refers to the national catastrophe of farmers committing suicide since the 1970s, due to their inability to repay loans mostly taken from private landlords and banks. NCRB data shows that the incidence of farmer suicides has remained high in the 6 years between 2014 and 2020. The National Crime Records Bureau of India reported that a total of 296,438 Indian farmers had committed suicide between 1995-2014. Out of these, 60,750 farmer suicides were in the state of Maharashtra since 1995 and the remaining in Odisha, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Chhattisgarh, all states with loose financial and entry regulations. The farmer's suicide rate in India had ranged between 1.4 and 1.8 per 100,000 total population, over a 10-year period through 2005, however, the figures in 2017 and 2018 showed an average of more than 10 suicides daily or 5760 suicides per year. There are accusations of states manipulating the data on farmer suicides, hence the real figures could be even higher. Farmers' income rose by 30 per cent while their debt surged around 58 per cent between 2013 and 2019. As a result, farmers' debt as a percentage of their annual income shot up by 13 percentage points, according to latest data released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation. Farmers include those who own work and work on field as well as those who employ/hire workers for field work/farming activities. It excludes agricultural labourers. A total of 5178 male farmers and 472 female farmers have committed suicides, accounting for 91.6% and 8.4% of total farmer suicides. 31.1%, 29.2%, 14.1% and 11.0% of female farmer suicides were reported in Telangana (147 out of 472 suicides), Madhya Pradesh (138 suicides), Maharashtra (70 suicides) and Chhattisgarh (52 suicides) respectively. Farmer suicides in the country declined last year compared to 2020, but overall suicides among persons involved in farming operations (farmers/cultivators and agricultural labourers) increased from 10,677 in 2020 to 10,881 in 2021, accounting for 6.6% of total 1,64,033 suicides in the country, shows the latest report of the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB). In 2020, number of suicides by persons engaged in farm sector accounted for nearly 7% of total suicides (153,052) in the country. In fact, both the COVID hit years of 2020 and 2021, that showed positive growth in the farm sector, recorded an increase in such suicides over respective previous years after showing consistent decline in such figures for four consecutive years since 2016. Let us see the analysis of farmer suicide.

STATEMENT AND OBJECTIVES:

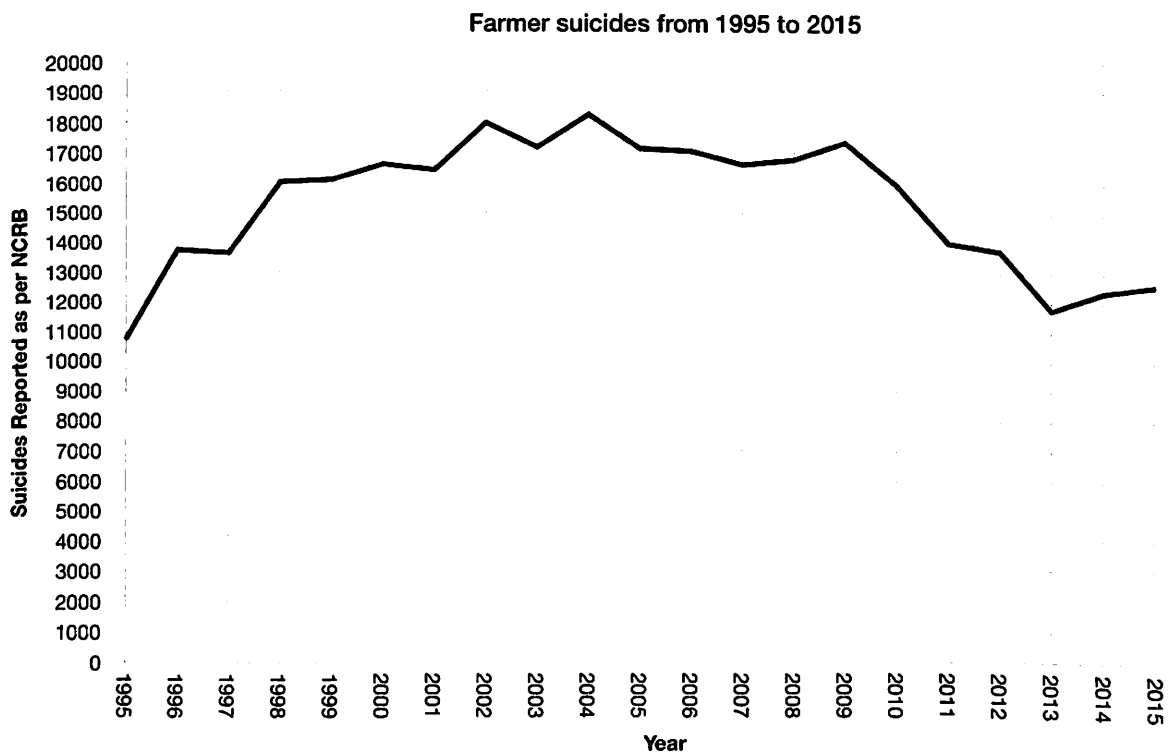
- To understand what is farmers suicide
- To know more about the history of farmers suicide
- To study the international comparison of farmers suicide
- To know the reasons of farmers suicide
- Harmful effects of farmers suicide
- To create awareness among people about these issues and prevent farmers suicide in every way of possible

ANALYSIS OF OBJECTIVES:

❖ What is farmers suicide

Farmers suicide is a serious problem in some Indian states which requires immediate attention so that a farmers suicide should stop immediately As much as Nos. of the suicide of farmers is concerned, Maharashtra is at number one. In addition to Maharashtra, Telangana ,Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, and Chhattisgarh are having a lot of suicides. Around 15500 suicide cases were reported in the last 6 years.

❖ To know more about the history of farmers suicide



Historical records relating to frustration, revolts, and high mortality rates among farmers in India, particularly cash crop farmers, date back to the 19th century. However, suicides due to the same were rare. The high land taxes of the 1870s, payable in cash regardless of the effects of frequent famines on farm output or productivity, combined with colonial protection of usury, money lenders, and landowner rights, contributed to widespread penury and frustration among cotton and other farmers, ultimately leading to the Deccan Riots of 1875–1877. The colonial government enacted the Deccan Agriculturists' Relief Act in 1879, to limit the interest rate charged by money lenders to Deccan cotton farmers, but applied it selectively to areas that served foreign cotton trading interests. Rural mortality rates, in predominantly agrarian areas of colonial India, were very high between 1850 and the 1940s. However, starvation related deaths far exceeded those by suicide, the latter being officially classified under "injuries". The death rate classified under "injuries", in 1897, was 79 per 100,000 people in Central Provinces of India and 37 per 100,000 people in Bombay Presidency

National Crime Records Bureau, an office of the Ministry of Home Affairs Government of India, has been collecting and publishing suicide statistics for India since the 1950s, as annual Accidental Deaths & Suicides in India report. It started separately collecting and publishing farmer's suicide statistics from 1995. 12,000 farmers committed suicide in Maharashtra between 2015 and 2018.

❖ To study about the international comparison of farmers suicide

Farmer's suicide is a global phenomenon. Outside India, studies in Sri Lanka, the United States, Canada, and Australia have identified farming as a high-stress profession that is associated with a higher suicide rate than the general population. This is particularly true among small-scale farmers and after periods of economic distress. Fraser et al., similarly, after a review of 52 scholarly publications, conclude that farming populations in the United Kingdom, Europe, Australia, Canada, and the United States have the highest rates of suicide of any industry and there is growing evidence that those involved in farming are at higher risk of developing mental health problems. Their review claims a wide range of reasons behind farmers suicide globally including mental health issues, physical environment, family problems, economic stress, and uncertainties. Significantly higher suicide rate among farmers than the general population has been reported in developed countries such as the UK and the US.

❖ Reasons of farmers suicide

Natural disasters : due to factors like excessive rain, floods, droughts, delays in the rain, heavy cyclones, etc., farmers are unable to harvest both qualitative and quantitative output from their farms as a result of global warming, deforestation, and other man-made factors. Farmers frequently struggle to recoup the cost of their goods. These factors make agriculture a guaranteed loss-making venture. The marginal and small farmers, however, are without an alternative sources of income. They continually give agriculture their whole attention. They become insolvent as a result of ongoing losses, and the frustration of this drives them to take their own lives.

Water level fall : Sufficient irrigation infrastructure is required for the sector to expand sustainably. Water shortages lead to the discontinuation of irrigation and watershed development projects since there is no institutional system in place to conserve the rainwater. Therefore, farmers must continue to miss out on the advantages of the good rainfall.

Low Productivity and Monsoon Uncertainty: Changes in the monsoon have an impact on farmers' livelihoods and agricultural output. Due to the uneven distribution of arable land and the unpredictable nature of the monsoon, the majority of farmers are marginal farmers. Farmers commit suicide as a result of finding it impossible to meet family needs.

Farmers debt as a result of crop failure: The growing disparity between the expense of cultivation and the cash received from the prices of produce has made agriculture unprofitable. For all crops, the average difference between cultivation costs and receiving prices is a significant percentage. However, the returns from agriculture were out of proportion to the investment; as a result, farmers were unable to use their agricultural income to pay for the expense of cultivation. Agriculture-related social structures make the issue even worse. Farmers who work as renters from time to time and who cannot support their families due to high daily expenses that exceed their income or who are unable to meet their needs commit suicide.

Costly methods used in modern agriculture: Following the green revolution and the development of new technology, farming has been much simpler and more productive thanks to hybrid seeds, insecticides, pesticides, and farm growing techniques. But since they are so expensive, these breakthroughs and technologies are out of reach for poor small and marginal farmers.

Insufficient education: Farmers are unable to give their children the required education because of their poverty. As a result, the farmers' sons also become farmers, and this pattern continues. They suffer as a result because they are uninformed of the programs or do not know how to use the government advantages that are available to them.

Lack of transit systems: It is the main barrier to effective marketing. There are no highways connecting the rural areas to the market. Transport issues result in a large amount of wasted agricultural product.

Lack of essential infrastructure: The lack of suitable social support infrastructure at the village and district levels, uncertainty surrounding the region's agricultural sector, and lack of infrastructure amenities like power and clean drinking water have an impact on the farmers' mental and physical health. They occasionally start abusing drugs and drinking more. All of these items drew deadly illnesses and caused them to perish.

The economic policies of India: India's economic policies are typically driven by urban consumers, as seen by the necessity to enact price restrictions in the event of a price increase and to remove them once the price is under control. Such regulations reduce profit margins and harm farmers' ability to escape the debt cycle.

Labour costs: Likewise, hiring labourers and animals is getting costlier too. While this may reflect an improvement in the socio-economic status of the labourers, driven primarily by MGNREGA and hike in minimum basic income, this has not gone too well with boosting the agriculture sector.

Due to these reasons, it becomes requisite to take various preventive measures for avoiding farmers suicide. Educating and spreading awareness among the pupil of the country becomes indispensable for betterment of farmers as well as to improve the lifestyle and agriculture sector

CASE STUDY/LITERATURE CONTENT:

A film on agrarian crisis produced by Farmers' Champions.

Do you know the farmer who produced the food you ate in your lunch?

Do you know the farmer who produced the food you ate in your lunch?

In a situation where 3.2 lakhs farmers have committed suicide in the last 20 years and every half an hour a farmer is taking away life in the process of producing food for all us, did you ever thought about why there is a deep crisis in agriculture!

Why the situation of farmers in India has not much changed even 100 years after first the organized farmers' movement in India at Champaran started by Mahatma Gandhiji?

Why public policies haven't changed in favor of farmers when Royal Commission on Agriculture, 1928 itself observed that 'Indian farmers are born in debt, live in debt and die in debt?' decades later situations haven't changed. Still farmers in India are highly indebted and taking away their lives?

Why food we eat is becoming the cause of ill health? Why there is an increase in the incidence of cancer in Punjab?

How untested technologies are trusted on us in the name of modernization?

Why farmers are taking away their lives? Why villages are up for sale?

While these questions are around us for long, we are making a small attempt to find answers for these questions through the film 'Mitti-back to roots'.

The film a docudrama based on several real life incidences from across the country. The film is made in Hindi and would be dubbed into other languages. Resources are raised through 'Crowd funding' and volunteer support from across the world.

Mitti: Back to the roots is a 2018 Indian Hindi-language crowd-funded docudrama film written by Rajnish Sharma and directed by Anshul Sinha Music composed by P.V.R. Raja

Mitti is the story of a young agricultural scientist 'Ekta' who tries understand the crisis in farm sector and explores alternative paths. This is story of a village which was put up for sale. It is the story of the farmers who lost their lives chasing the dreams of big yields. It is the story of the young women who tried to restore their livelihoods. It is the story of a village which gained freedom from all the clutches.

The film is a result of more than a year research on the farm crisis, farmer suicides, pesticide poisoning, land grab and several other issues pushing farming into crisis. The research was done

by our team headed by Mr. Anshul Sinha under the mentor ship of Dr. G. V. Ramanjaneyulu, Centre for Sustainable Agriculture, Hyderabad. The film portrays 25 major issues pushing farming into crisis.

The film aims at saving every farmer from giving up farming and their life and making others realize what is wrong with our approach to farming today and what are the possible ways out. The film is about farmer suicides and the agrarian crisis which talks about 27 major issues of farmers and provide practical solutions. The film also showcases ways to address the problems at the grassroots. It aims at saving every farmer from giving up farming as a profession and also to help reduce farmer suicides in the country . The film is presented by Development Dialogue, a forum to dialogue about the ways of addressing the development challenges we are facing. The crowdfunding campaign for the movie was started on 16 December, 2016 and ended in the month of February, 2017. It started its first shoot schedule on 11 Feb 2017. The campaign was supported by 120 individuals and organisations who are concerned about the plight of the farmers, like Dinesh Chandrashekar, Suresh Ediga, SAHE, Rural hope foundation. The film was shot in Enabavi, India's first organic village. Located 100 kms from Hyderabad, Enabavi is situated in Jangaon dist, Telangana. Currently the film is completed and struggling for release . It is based on several real life stories of farmers and villages which underwent the deep crisis and also moved out finding their path towards sustainability. It was 2 hrs. power packed performance by the movie crew and all the audience glued to their seat completely engrossed with the characters and the subject of Agrarian crisis and farmer suicides. The movie starts with a Farmer succumbing to cardiac arrest seeing the crops fails and how the girl of this deceased farmer went on to become an Agriculture Scientist and fight against all odds to stop the corrupt practices of spreading the GM Seeds, pesticides and fertilizers which kills both Farmers and the fertile lands of our Nation. The movie also narrates to a greater depth the issues faced by Farmers in our nation today and what forces them to commit suicide . How badly they were treated by middlemen, government authorities , last but not the least we the consumers and people of this country have very little empathy for their suffering.

Movie also gives a solution to the Farming challenges which is explained in great details with lot of research and practical solutions for the farmers to implement. This is India's first crowd funded Social Impact Feature Film. Thanks to those 120 Farmer Champions who made a great difference to the Farmer's cause. This project is a result of one year of research on the reasons behind the suicides of the farmers in our country. The research was done by our team headed by Mr. Anshul Sinha under the mentorship of Centre for Sustainable Agriculture, Hyderabad founded by Mr. G V Ramanjaneyulu, an Agricultural scientist. The project portrays 25 major issues of agrarian crisis which are the main reasons behind 3 lakhs farmer suicides happened in our nation. The film aims at saving every farmer from giving up farming & their life, inspiring them and society on the basic aspects of the organic farming and having a clear glimpse of the problems known from our research. Mitti-Back to the roots will definitely be a milestone social impact movie, The Journey has just began and I look forward to a greater success of this movie This is India's first crowd funded Social Impact Feature Film. Thanks to those 120 Farmer Champions who made a great difference to the Farmer's cause. There are 2000 plus frames in the film and total 133 scenes each and every scene in the film shows how we are poisoning our farm

fields and food, which begins from soil and after knowing all these things in the end of the film we show solutions on how we can keep our soil safe, this was the reason why we kept the name 'Mitti – Back To The Roots'. All the issues which are highlighted in the film are inspired by real incidents. There is a village named DORLI in Wardha district, that village was on sale. All farmers collaborated and they started working on sustainable agriculture and brought their village back by clearing their debts. The journey of that village is an inspiration for all the farmers in India.

For all the 25 problems shown in the film, 'Mitti' also highlights the solution in the film. The climax of the film 'Mitti' is showing a multi-cropping model which can be implemented in low rainfall areas and by explaining about the model. It also shows alternatives of seeds, pesticides, fertilizers and pricing policies.

CSA **RAASTA**
STUDIOS

Produced by **Farmer Champions**

MITTI

BACK TO ROOTS

#ZEROFARMERSUICIDE
#LETSMAKEITHAPPEN

3 Shows on 26th Jan 2018 at Sarathi Studios

Rural Stage Foundation, Sarathi Studios, Momentz, Panna, and other logos

BAN GMO
BAN PESTICIDES

LEARNING

We all know that our lives depend on the crops harvested by these farmers and so, the Government should immediately find out some ways to help these farmers. The Government should carefully take into account all those issues which compel the farmers to commit suicide and moreover, it should also fix all those issues immediately. In almost every village of the country, the condition of the farmers is more or less same. When they fail to repay their loans, they find it more convenient to end their life then to face the social humiliation. The only solution to avoid this problem lies with the Government which is required to run crop guarantee scheme, besides it may also arrange for providing loans to the farmers on negligible interest rate. The biggest step in this direction that the Government may take to help the farmers can be – to make financial arrangements especially to support the farmers while making the yearly budget. It is very important to save the farmer from committing suicide by introducing path-breaking welfare schemes to help them on a mass scale. Only by taking such measures, the providers of our food grains can be saved from leading a miserable life which ends with suicide.

CONCLUSION

For an agricultural country like India, farmers' suicide is an extremely worrying situation and it certainly is a national problem which demands immediate solution. The government should run more effective welfare schemes for the poor and landless farmers, some of which may be like crop insurance and providing loans to the farmers on minimal interest rates. If such welfare schemes can be offered immediately and without losing time any further, only then the farmers can be prevented from committing suicides. It is urgent to pay attention to the rising incidents of the farmers committing suicide. The government should come forward and take necessary steps to safeguard the farmers against all those issues which compel them to commit suicide. It should make adequate arrangements for the farmers in case they lose their crops due to any eventuality and moreover it should also provide them loan on the most economical interest rate to safeguard them from becoming victims of landlords as well as money lenders.

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