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**CONTEMPORARY  
ISSUES IN INDIA  
(SOCIAL SCIENCE)**

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**[SOCIAL SCIENCE]**

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## Suicides Farmers in India

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### Introduction :

It is absolutely right to call India as an agricultural land due to the percentage of population depending on this sector. The people directly or indirectly have consult with this sector. In the last few decades the tremendous changes have been taken place and these changes are underpinning the development of industrial sector in term of supplying the raw-materials. The per -capita average of the land is 0.19% in India.

India is a Agriculture bases economy where the price of land never gets reduced to zero. Farmer is the backbone of this economy, but that has got bent and deformed due to pressure/burden of excessive loan. In 2004-05 the proportion of agricultural Products in export was 10.2%. whereas it was 22% in Gross National Income. But the sad story of the farmer is that he borrows and dies in loans. The representatives of common people coming from farmer families are shamefully keeping mum on this sad situation. So this paper is an attempt to focus this issue of national importance as even the share of agriculture in GNP has reduced by 6% in six years and has come from to 16% only. Agriculture Provides the principal means of livelihood for over 65% of India's population. Despite a steady decline in its share to the gross Domestic product (GDP) agriculture remains the largest economic sector in the country. In 1947 the share of Agriculture in total GDP was 50% gradually it declined & has now come down to about 16% still however 65% population depended on agriculture for survival. In 2010-11 i.e. prior to introduction of financial sector reforms, growth rate in Agriculture in India was 15.4% which has come down to 1.5% (2010-11). Due to rapid growth of rural population & division of families the farmland has undergone rapid fragmentation. Presently 80% of the farmland holding are with the small & marginal farmers owning land up to 5 acres. For these categories of farmers cost of production by way of farm inputs has increase manifold over the year while the productivity of the loan remained at the same level & sale price of farm produce has not commensurately increased. These factors have driven farmers to the debt trap & have caused distress leading to suicides.

### Objectives of Study :

- 1) To study the causes of the farmers suicides.
- 2) To study the effects of farmers' suicides.

- 3) To study the remedies to reduce farmers suicide rates.

### Research Methodology :

In the present research paper, the researcher is entirely exhausting the secondary sources including various books of economics, references books, newspapers, various reports, monthly, weekly and annual magazines etc. are used as its resources, and the data of agriculture is taken various sources like monthly and news papers.

Data of farmers' suicide (in India) :		
States	Years (2010)	Years (2013)
M.S.	15964	16622
T.N.	---	16622
A.P.	2525	14607
W.B.	993	13055
Karnatak	2585	11266
M.P.	1237	--
Chhattisgad	1126	--
Kerala	895	--
Data of farmers suicide in Maharashtra :		
Year	M.S.	Vidharbha
2010	3141	---
2013	3146	---
2014	4004	1128
2015	4291	1570
2016	2307	1477
2017 (July)	--	635
		West Vidharbha
		1177
		805
		963
		828
		---
		507

### Reasons of farmers suicides :

#### 1. Loans from private money lenders :

This loan on higher rates from local private



moneylenders traps farmers in unpaid or partly paid debt trap. (The figer from the year 1991)

#### 2. Excessive Reliance on Monsoon :

This makes farmer helpless in irregular monsoon. Second time sowing process compels him to get private loans, and then if monsoon disfavors, he finds himself miserable. The Indian agriculture sector is entirely depended on Monsoon and its vagaries and if the rainy season is good and on time certainly the crops will be good otherwise farmer faces the loss due to heavy rain, droughts, famine. Till 1991, out of the total area of land 67% was depended on monsoon.

#### 3. Increasing Production Cost and proportionate

Prices is low :

In agriculture products, the production cost and selling price are not & changing proportionately. Production cost has increased many times but the prices have not as if agricultural products are necessary commodity.

#### 4. Family Responsibilities and Social Customs :

The Social Customs promote a farmer to take loan and complete the family responsibilities related to birth, marriage, death related responsibilities & joint family systems.

#### 5. Insufficient Irrigation Facilities :

19% land in India is Irrigation facilities and than only monsoon/kharip crop is possible. 19% land was under irrigation before the partition and the irrigation percentage of today is 36%.

140.8 million hectares net sown area is available for agriculture and on the other hand the expected irrigation potential was 140.8 million hectare but in reality 103 million hectares of land came under irrigation and remaining 37.8 million hectares are still non-irrigated. In the year 1950-51 the total land area under irrigation was 23 million hectares. Actually in the year 2011-12 the growth in irrigated area was 65.5 million hectares, and gross irrigated area reached at 91.5 million hectares.

#### 6. Population Explosion :

In last sixty years population of India has tripled. That's why population based on agricultural has also tripled, yet the average area of owned land has decreased. The Ratio of agriculture and population given in the following table

#### 7. Absense of Sidelines Facilities :

Due to very meager allocation of funds for sidelines and unpredictable monsoon has promoted debt trap for farmers.

#### 8. Natural Calamities :

Less rainfall or drought and excessive heavy rainfall, other natural calamities collapse the annual based budget of the farmers, Government compensation is scanty and payment of it is untimely. So farmer has to

turn to private high interest loan to be loan trapped.

#### 9. Faulty Marketing System :

Agents, grain merchants, deceiving measuring and weighing, trouble the farmer at Markets committees (APMCS) and he has to sell food grains at a lower price even though he deserves more.

#### 10. Instant need of Money :

Faulty marketing systems is mainly result of farmer's urgent need of money just after harvesting. Private loans his and family responsibilities compel him to sell his product at available rate, and it is always quite low at harvesting.

#### 11. Price Hike in Service Sector and Cash based

Society :

In India, social system and rural economy was based on barter system and give and take. But now farmers have to purchase all services with cash money. The service sector immense price hike specially medical and educational sector has created an imbalance in income and expenditures of farmer families. Even in marriages co-operative system has collapsed and purchasing has increased a lot. This leads farmer to disproportionate loan.

#### 12. Capital Unavailability - Due to less Investment in Agriculture Sector :

Except in seed, Fodder, insecticides, pesticides, fertilizers and tractor production by private companies, investment in providing services to farmers or general development of agriculture is insignificant. This has also marred the development of agriculture sector.

#### 13. Low Subsidies for fertilizer :

The subsidies for fertilizer was very low than its need, (76603 crore rupees) more in the year 2008-09 but was deducted to 67,971 crore rupees in the year 2013-14 and the expected subsidy provision for the year is 72,90 crore rupees.

#### Suggestions :

To control over population growth rate is the prime need of the time for that purpose government should check out he effective plan simultaneously the program for growing literacy rate should be effectively organized by the government. Compulsory insurance is given to every crops and the installment should be small/little; for this grant should be allotted. The much discussed issue since independent should be implemented as early as possible i.e. connecting rivets project.

Minimum support price should be changed or made changes in relation to Inflation rate so that farmers are perused from suicide. The government should purchase the agriculture product from the farmer and then to be sold to the trades, in this way the frames' deceit can be avoided. A great amount of grant ot be given for agriculture



research. To use the water resources effectively and to increase in catchment area. Providing monetary aids in due course. Making use of natural resources effectively. Giving importance to increase in agriculture production. Limited use of chemical fertilizer and pesticides. To develop the quality of agriculture research and to bring this now research in contact with framers and villagers. Using new technology irrigation in agriculture sector. To make available the markets where farmer can easily get fix prizes for their product. To built new godouns and cold storage in big numbers so that the product from the field can be stored in it until the appropriate prizes farmer gets. The fundamental facilities are made available for exporting the agriculture production. To develop the transportation facilities. Controlling on growing population Controlled markets To maintain the material grade. Certified weigh rule must be cone into force.

**Conclusion :**

For upliftment of the farmers there is need for a joint initiative by State Government, Central Government & financial Institutions. There is need of Timely & adequate support by way of credit to farmers with focusing small & marginal farmers. To issue Kisan Credit Cards. To farm the SHGs of tenant farmers & share croppers & agriculture workers. Encourage the farmers to adopt allied activities like dairy, fishery, poultry etc. Diversification & Crop rotation in agricultural Production in changed scenario. Adoption & Upgraded technology inputs along with provision of infrastructure inputs like power at subsidized

cost, supply of inputs like seeds, fertilizers, tractors & credit provision through all nationalized Banks. Adoption of Non-farm activities with allied agricultural activities. Arrange of Marketing & forward linkages and contract farming to sell their produce at remunerative prices.

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## CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that Prof./Dr./Mr./Mrs. *Dilip Pandurang Mahajan*  
from *S.P.M. Tatyasaheb Mahajan college, Chikhali*

has participated in the National Conference on **Contemporary Issues in India** Organised by Siddharth Arts, Commerce & Science College, Jafrabad Dist. Jalna on 5th march 2019. He/She has presented a research paper Titled *Suicide farmers in India.*

He/She has also Chaired a Session / Chief Guest / delivered lecture on \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ as a resource person on 5th march 2019. His/her participation is appreciated.

*[Signature]*  
Prof. Sanjay T. Salve  
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