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11. Economic Reforms and Roots of Farmers Suicide

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Abstract

Farmers are ending their lives in India due to adverse effect of liberalization, privatization and globalization. In this paper attempt was made to understand the drastic steps taken by the farmers to suicide. Suicide of farmers is a social problem and attempted to suggest remediesto the psychological, economic, social and technology adoption to improve the standard of living of poor rural villagers. Pricing policy of the agricultural goods is required to redesign from the roots. Farmers are require to make more efficient by providing the high yielding verities of seeds, availability of finance at the right time, development of agricultural market, storage facility to the agricultural products, arrangement of irrigation facilities, road and transportation facility fair and remunerative pricing policy for the agricultural goods is essential. Major causes that psychotically effect on the farmers suicide are drought, debt recovery policy, agricultural revenue not match with the cost of production, heavy rains at the time of harvesting of crops, low quality pesticides, health and financial problems.

Keywords; Farmers unrest, motivational factors and farmers suicide

1. Introduction

Recovery of loan from farmers becomes more sensitive matter due to suicide approach of the farmers. Many of the farmers unions demanding loan waiver. In June, 2017 Government of Maharashtra announced near about 34 thousands crores of rupees as loan waived. Out of 1.36 crores farmers near about 89 lakhs farmers will be beneficial by loan waived scheme announced by the State of Maharashtra. But actual figure is less as compared by announcement by the state government. Maximum Rs 1.5 lakhs default loan of each farmer up to 30th June, 2016 is waived. The farmers who are regular payment of loan also be beneficial up to 25% of loan amount or maximum Rs.25000 whichever less is. As per the Central Government over 12,000 suicides were reported in the agricultural sector every year since 2013. For the past one decade, over 15,000 farmers in India have been taking their own lives each year. The recent report of the National

Crime Records Bureau, Accidental Deaths & Suicides in India - 2010, says 15,964 farmers committed suicide in 2010. The five most affected states are: Maharashtra (3,141), Karnataka (2,585), Andhra Pradesh (2,525), Madhya Pradesh (1,237) and Chattisgarh (1,126). Due to that climate change had caused nearly 60,000 suicides in India between 1980 and 2013. The question is an important one so the researcher chose this topic for the intensive study. Indian farmers have been facing a number of socioeconomic problems, such as harassment by moneylenders, inability to repay debts, family health, not getting reasonable price to the agricultural products. Banks approach to the financing to the farming activities is not positive. Banks are only financing to farmers to achieve their loan target to agricultural sector. India is more than twice of the total number of suicides being committed in the top 100 countries on the suicide list. In India, the national data show that suicide rate was 9.7lakh populations in 1995. In India, average six farmers committing suicide per day. A year before the 2019 elections, the Centre has informed the Parliament that the number of suicides by farmers and agricultural labourers during 2016 has come down approximately by 9.77 per cent. Minister of Agriculture and Farmer Welfare Radha Mohan Singh said the number of suicides has come down from 12,602 in 2015 to 11,370 in 2016. While Maharashtra has recorded the highest number of suicide by farmers, the agriculture ministry says the situation has improved. During 2015, the number of farmer suicides was pegged at 4,291 while in 2016 it was 3661, which is approximately 14.68 per cent less compared to 2015. The Government had announced that MSP for all unannounced Kharif crops will be 1.5 times the cost of production. Giving a major boost for the farmers income, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved the increase in MSPs for all Kharif crops for the 2018-19 season at a level of at least 150 per cent the cost of production.

Table No. 1: Suicide of Farmers in Maharashtra

Division	2017	2018	
Amravati	1064	1049	
Aurangabad	991	947	
Nashik	475	421	
Nagpur	280	248	
Pune	102	94	
Konkan	05	02	
Total	2917	2461	

Source: The Times of India, 22/01/2019

In Maharashtra, in the year 2017total 2117 farmers suicide and in the 2018 it was 2461 farmers suicide which increase by 16.24% in one year. The number of farmers committed suicide during 1995- 2014 periods had 51837, which contributes 22.5 percent of general suicide of Maharashtra: In Pune region total 585 farmers suicide during 2011 to 2011. The number of farmer's suicide has increased rapidly than any other states in Maharashtra. In Maharashtra total 12591 farmers suicide during the period 2001 to 2011. Total number of farmers' suicides in Sanglidistrict during 2001-2011 amounted to 144 which resulted to 1.1% to State suicide data and Satara district 170 farmers suicide.

2. Research Methodology

2.1 Significance of the study

The present study will help to the policy formulation concerned to the agricultural sector, Governments, banks, for overall improvement performance. The study will also be useful to the concerned departments of central and state governments to solve the problems farmers' suicide.

2.2 Rationale of the Study

In the present paper attempt was made to understand the problems farmers and why they are taking drastic steps of suicide. Paper enlightens such suggestions that assist to prevent the farmer's suicide. The study creates awareness among the various agencies that engaged in farmer's education in different types.

3.3 Objectives of the Study

- 1) To enlighten the different motivational factors that resulted to farmers suicide.
- 2) To suggest the remedial measures to prevent farmers suicide.

3.4 Hypothesis

- 1) Farmer's negative approach to life and farmers suicide is dependent.
- 2) Financial position of farmers and suicide are independent.
- 3) Financial assistance to suicide family and farmers suicide are independent.

3.5 Research Design

3.5.1 Selection of Area and Samples

Pune region is reputed in the production of sugarcane and ranked first in agricultural development. Among the Pune region onlySangli andSataradistricts were selected for the study. Due to increment in area under cultivation of sugarcane and farmers unrest to claim FRP and fair price to milk and vegetable's the researcher selected Pune region for the study.

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3.5.2 Sources of Data

Data will collect through the use of primary and secondary methods.

3.5.2.1 Primary Data

Primary data became more useful and reliable for the drawing conclusions. The following techniques of primary data collection were utilized for the valid information.

i) Personal Interviews and Discussions

Personal interviews arranged for the free and fair discussions. Discussions were made with members of the suicide farmer's family to understand the reasons behind the farmers suicide.

ii) Personal Visits

Personal visits were arranged for the observations and investigations.

3.5.2.2 Secondary Data

The secondary data are collected through the printed and published facts. The following sources were most useful to the researcher to collect secondary data.

- 1) Published reports and survey concerned to farers suicide.
- 2) Published sources collected from sources such as books, periodicals and newspapers.
- 3) Research papers, projects reports, etc. was referred.

3.5.3 Scope of the Study

The study is only related to the Pune region and only two districts i.e. Sangli, Satara, districts were selected for the study of farmer's suicide.

3.5.4 Expected contribution of the study

- 1) The study will helps for policy formulation relating to improvement of life of farmers.
- 2) The study helps to solve the problem of farmer's suicide.

4. Results and Discussion

Liberalisation, privatilisation, globalisation have negatively affected on the farmers earning capacity. Cost of production of agricultural goods is increasing. Small and marginal farmers not compete to the word changing agricultural environment. Rural poor people not purchase the high priced of high yielding seeds. The effect of global warming is adversely affecting on the crop cultivation practices. Genetic modified crops are not suitable to the local geographical regional. For the protection of genetic modified crop required more pesticides and fungicides. Irrigation facilities were not sufficient due to uncertain rain. Krishna River is

blessed to Sangli and Satara districts. More fertile soil of Krishna Valley assists to improve the life of the some part of both the districts. On the contrary half the area of both the Sangliand Satara districts suffering the scarcity of the water. Farmer's unrest among these both districts is increasing. Farmer's demands fair and reasonable price to agricultural products. Sugar mills are failing to pay FRP of sugarcane in time. Farmers are adopted a level of standard of living. When agriculture income not sufficient to maintain the life of the farmers family it causes to unrest and other factors motivate to suicide. Due to new economic reforms adopted by India in 1991 hare are many changes brought in the agricultural sector. Indian farmers still not adjusted economic reforms. Small, marginal and agricultural labours are struggling for the better life. Government programmems are not sufficient to improve the standard of living of the farmers. Indebtedness among the farmers causes the suicide. Due to decrement in income farmers are unable to pay debt in time. Agriculture income is not match with the cost of production of agricultural goods. The deficiency in the income filled farmers by borrowing of loan from banks but unable to pay it in time due to uncertain agricultural environment. The burden of loan on the farmers mind depress them, they are become unrest and think about suicide. Due to the heavy depression attitude farmers become the addiction of alcohol and other substance. The limited income is making expenditure on alcohol and other substance they become financial weak. Small farming is not economical and it increases the cost of production of agricultural goods. The income earned from agriculture is used for the customs and traditions rather than to purchase the agricultural inputs and repayment of loans taken from banks, cooperative society and money lenders. Failure in crops management like grapevine, betelvine, sugarcane, food grains and oilseeds causes to farmers suicide. Failure in livestock management and dairy business also causes to suicide. Family culture is a strong bond to build all family members together strongly. Family crises create unrest among the farmers. Love affair is one of the reasons of suicide. From the above results and discussion it is not the only the responsibility of the Government to protect of farmers suicide. The members of the society are required to contribute to rehabilitation of the suicide family members. The different NGOs also play an important role for the prevent farmers suicide. If one man lost is life by suicide, nation suffers heavy loss of human asset.

5. Conclusions and Suggestions

5.1 Conclusions

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- Farmers are ending their lives in India due to adverse effect of globalization, privatization and liberalization.
- 2. Pricing policy of the agricultural goods is required to redesign from the roots.
- 3. Major causes that psychotically effect on the farmers suicide are drought, debt recovery policy, agricultural revenue not match with the cost of production, heavy rains at the time of harvesting of crops, low quality pesticides, health and financial problems.
- 4. Indian farmers have been facing a number of socioeconomic problems, such as harassment by moneylenders, inability to repay debts, family health, not getting reasonable price to the agricultural products.
- India is more than twice of the total number of suicides being committed in the top 100 countries on the suicide list.
- 6. Centre has informed the Parliament that the number of suicides by farmers and agricultural labourers during 2016 has come down approximately by 9.77 per cent.

5.2 Suggestions

- 1. Educate the farmers for the optimum utilization of the agricultural inputs.
- 2. Wider the crop insurance plan and assists the farmers at the critical agricultural environment situation.
- More attention is required to cost control, production of cash crops and scientific management of inputs and out puts by the farmers.
- Increase the volume of lone to the agriculture sector which match the requirement of funds for the development agricultural sector.
- Farmers should provide pension and old age other social securities.
- Easy communication of the disaster management information to the farmers to manage farm activities.
- Government should provide seeds, fertilizers, irrigation facilities, electricity to the farmers to reduce the cost of production burden at zero level.
- More rigorous punishment for providing low quality seeds and fertilizers to the farmersto protect their rights.
- Hundred percent subsidies to build water pond in the farm to preserve the rainy water and promote rain water conservation.

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- Awareness campaigns should be implemented to make the people identify early signs
 of suicidal behavior among the farmers.
- Government should development infrastructure in the field of agricultural market for better transactions.

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