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"Farmer's Suicide: A Major Challenge to the Maharashtra Government"

Dr. Kalpna H. Gharage

HOD(Public Administration) Mahila Mahavidyalya, Georai.

Member of BOS in Dr. BAMU, Aurangbad.

Abstract:

There are many problems to the Government of Maharashtra in this global and current era. One can solve the man made problems. But to solve the natural problems is very high task. The nature is not supporting to human being now-a-days. Natural resources are limited and population is increasing day-by-day. Maharashtra, one of the states of India is suffering from draught since last few years. Real India is living in rural part of the country. Maharashtra is also having the same situation. Due to draught, the farmers of Maharashtra are having problems of survival. Due to draught and changing pattern of nature (Raining, winter and summer), they are facing the problems of survival. This is converted into major social problem in Maharashtra i.e. Farmers' Suicide. Current paper focuses on the Government of Maharashtra and challenges faced by them in respect to farmers' suicide.

Key Words: Maharashtra, India, farmers, suicide, raining, draught, challenges etc.

Introduction: The Government of Maharashtra is trying its best to solve the problem of Farmer's suicide by various schemes as providing crop loan, crop policies, free seeds and fertilization etc. Yet unfortunately few of the regions of Maharashtra are having high Ratio of Farmers' suicide. To find out reasons behind is the major problem. Current research study is an attempt for it to focus on the challenges faced by Government of Maharashtra regarding to the farmers' suicide.

Literature Review:

a. In 2004 18,241 farmers committed suicide were recorded and it is the highest number of farmer suicides. This is the report by the National Crime Records Bureau of India's report in India 5,650 farmer suicides.

b. According to the News displayed by Priyanka Kakodkar (Farmer suicides up 42% between 2014 & 2015| TNN | Updated: Jan 6, 2017, 12.37 PM IST)-- Farmer suicides in the country rose by 42% between 2014 and 2015, according to newly released data from the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB). It recorded 5,650 suicides by farmers and cultivators in 2014. The figure rose to 8,007 in the latest data.

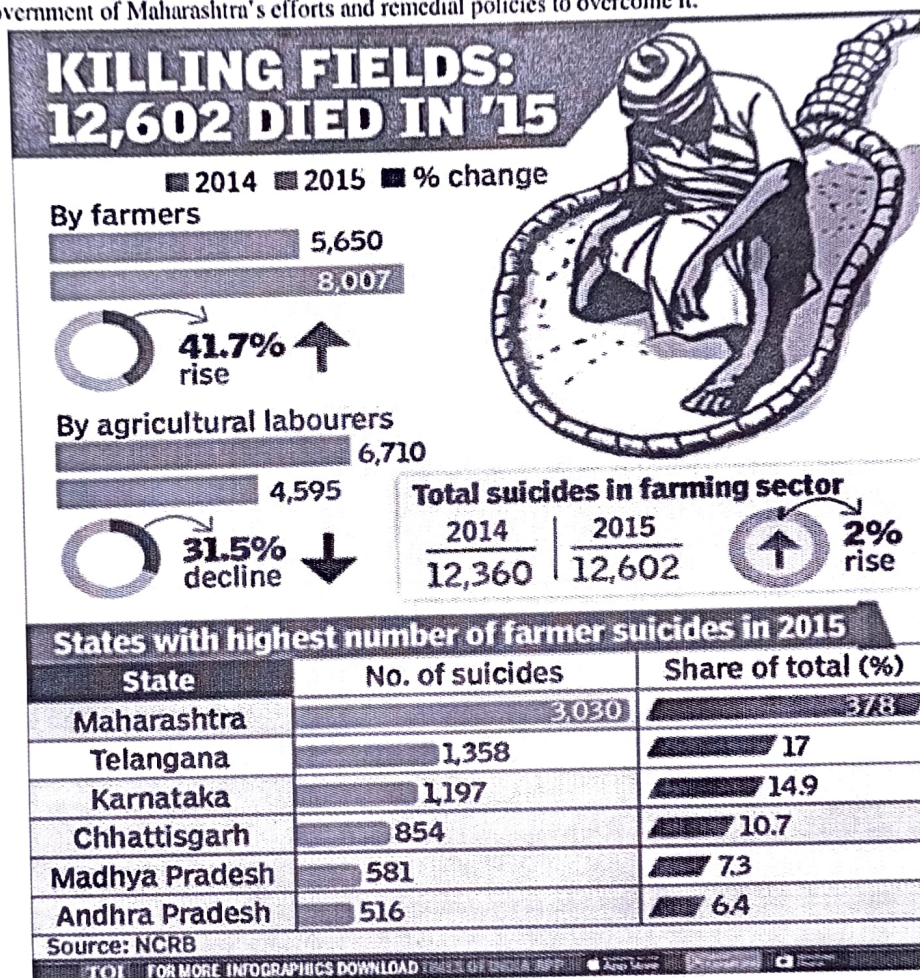
c. Even the record shows that Telangana was second, with 1,358 cases, and Karnataka third with 1,197. Six states of Maharashtra, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Karnataka accounted for 94.1% of total farmer suicides. In fact, farmer suicides shot up even though as many as nine states and seven Union territories recorded no case at all in the NCRB figures.

d. Several states across the country battled severe drought in both 2014 and 2015. Some, including Maharashtra, experienced two successive years of drought. With 3,030 cases, Maharashtra recorded the highest number of farmer suicides in the country (37.8%).

Talking about Marathwada, 117 farmers ended their lives in Maharashtra's drought-prone Marathwada region in the first two months of 2017. In spite of heavy rains and a burst in farm productivity, the blight of suicides continues to extend. The highest number of suicides was in Beed (23), followed by Nanded (22), Osmanabad (19), Aurangabad (18), Jalna (14),



Parbhani and Hingoli (8 each) and Latur (5). Of the 117 cases, financial aid was provided to 46 families of the deceased. But 13 were denied relief and 58 proposals are still being processed. This indicates that it is priority to study on increasing number of farmers suicide and government of Maharashtra's efforts and remedial policies to overcome it.



(Source Internet) Image 1.1 Farmers' Suicide Record

The above Image shows the record and ratio of farmers' suicide in India in which Maharashtra is at the topmost place about the number of farmers' suicide in 2015.

Methodology: Present study is survey based study. Hence, the data will be collected from field work. Door-to-door visit to the family of sample selected will be organized and their oral written (if Literacy Family will be there) interviews will be conducted with providing questionnaire.

- **Data Collection Method:** In the current study, the data is collected from two sources i.e. Primary Source and Secondary Source. Current study is related with the farmers' suicide of Maharashtra. It is comparative study of various divisions of Maharashtra. The data is collected from various divisions of Maharashtra as given in table no. 1.1. The parameters selected for this study are: Geography, quality of land, type of land, type of crop, type of family, size of family etc.



- a. **Primary Source:** In the Primary source the data will be collected from field work. There will be selection of sample size randomly (at least 25% of total). Personal visits to the family of farmer (who committed suicide during last two years of various regions of Maharashtra) and their interviews will taken by providing questionnaire.
- b. **Secondary Source:** Secondary source for current research will be data available in printed form as. News papers, journals, books and even e-sources are also used.

Objectives of the Study:

- To Study about the various government schemes for the welfare of farmers in Maharashtra.
- To analysis the challenges of Maharashtra Government about the implementation of schemes for farmers' welfare.
- To make aware the farmers of Maharashtra about government schemes.
- To convey the famers and divert them from suicide.

Hypotheses:

- A. Most of the farmers are unaware about Governments schemes and policies.
- B. Those who are aware, they are not getting the benefit of Governments schemes and policies due to the chain of corruption.
- C. Illiteracy of farmer and his family is one of the major reasons behind their committing suicide.

Research Questions:

The data collected from those families who are suffering due to the case of suicide. Various parameters as their owned Land, Quality of land, and the crops they have taken, types of loan they have borrowed, etc. from the nearby location of Marathwada region of Maharashtra.

- Coverage:** In the light of the questions raised or the hypotheses proposed are tested with selected sampling which is necessary.
 - Sampling Frame:** According to the News published in The Hindu (Mumbai, November 23, 2017 01:06 IST), Data for the past 10 months too shows Amravati division reported the most farmer suicides at 907, while Aurangabad reported 789 suicides. The Konkan division saw the least number of farmer suicides (4), while 80 farmers ended their lives during this period in Pune division. Nagpur registered 226 farmer suicides, while Nashik registered 408.
1. **Units of Observation and Sampling Size:** As explained above and according the News of THE HINDU, there are around 2,414 farmers who committed suicide in the 10 months (January 1 to October 31 2017). Amongst this figure, total 25% is taken as a sample size. Unit-wise sample size is as:-

Division of Maharashtra	No. of Cases	Sample Selection (25%)
Amravati	907	227
Aurangabad	789	197
Konkan	04	01
Pune	80	20



Nagpur	226	57
Nashik	408	102

Table: 1.2 Suicide of Farmers in Maharashtra

Table 1.2, is the result of farmers suicide in 2017, in Maharashtra. Amrawati is having more numbers in farmers' suicide and Konkan is less as there is no matter of draught. Heavy raining is there. The findings of current study are given below:

Finding of the Study:

- Maximum Farmers are unaware about the government schemes.
- There are several agents who work as a mediator between government department and farmers and take commission which many times they take in an advance.
- The corruption in Government Sectors about farmers' money and rights to get benefits of schemes.
- The illiteracy of farmers.
- The misinterpretation of about schemes provided to the farmers.

Suggestions:

- It is the necessity of reaching direct to the target group of beneficiaries i.e. farmers about the information and benefits of government schemes.
- The controlling on government sectors which are the part of corruption
- Entry should not be given to agents.

Conclusion: Thus, it is found that there is not problem in government schemes launched by government for farmers. They all are beneficial for farmers. Yet farmers suicide cases are more and increasing more because its proper implementation is not there. The challenge to Government of Maharashtra is proper administration in all activities related to theses government schemes and their benefit to the farmers.

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