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FARMERS SUICIDE IN MAHARASHTRA CASUSES AND REMEDIES

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Abstract:

India is a developing country; near about 65% of population depends upon the agriculture sector, which is a back bone of Indian economy. However the scenario of Indian agriculture has changed since last two decades on one hand the cost of production in agriculture is increasing on the other hand farmers are not able to cover the cost of production from sale, so the farmers are suffering from debt trap & this ultimately inducing to commit suicide. In India number of states is facing the problem of farmer's suicide.

KEYWORDS:

Casuses , Farmers , Remedies , Agriculture.

INTRODUCTION:

The present study highlights on the Maharashtra, number of suicides, causes of suicides and remedies for farmers suicide in Maharashtra.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:-

1. To study the scenario of agriculture in Maharashtra
2. To study the farmers suicidess in Maharashtra
3. To know the causes of farmers suicide
4. To suggest the remedies for farmers suicide

Indian culture is termed as agriculture since independence the planners & policy makers have give importance to agriculture. As a result the area under cultivation & production of agriculture has increased. Even though, today few states are suffering from farmer's suicide for one or other reason.

In India number of committees and individuals are carried out studies on farmer's suicide in various regions of India and Maharashtra. Some of the studies were carried out on farmer's suicide in India and Maharashtra by (iii) Tata Institute of Social Science (TISS), Mr. P. Sainath, Prof. K.Nagraj (Madras Institute of Development Studies) Dr. R. P. Kuruskar and Dr. Narendra Jadhav. Etc.

The number of farmer's suicide in few states in our country is given in the following table.

Farm suicides- all India totals and numbers for five worst- affected states (Big5) 1995-2011							
Year	Maharashtra	Andhra Pradesh	Karnataka	Madhya Pradesh *Chhattisgarh*	Yearly Total for Big 5	Yearly total all-India Farm suicide	BIG FS As% of all farm suicide
1995	1,083	1,196	2,490	1,239	6,008	10,720	56.04
1996	1,981	1,706	2,011	1,809	7,507	13,729	54.68
1997	1,917	1,097	1,832	2,390	7,236	13,622	53.12
1998	2,409	1,813	1,883	2,278	8,383	16,015	52.34
1999	2,423	1,974	2,379	2,654	9,430	16,082	58.64
2000	3,022	1,525	2,630	2,660	9,837	16,603	59.25
2001	3,516	1,509	2,505	2,824	10,374	16,415	63.20
2002	3,695	1,896	2,340	2,578	10,509	17,971	58.48
Totals (1995-02)	20,066	12,716	18,070	18,432	69,284	1,21,157	57.67
2003	3,836	1,800	2,678	2,511	10,825	17,164	63.07
2004	4,147	2,666	1,963	3,033	11,809	18,241	64.74
2005	3,926	2,490	1,883	2,660	10,959	17,131	63.97
2006	4,453	2,607	1,720	2,858	11,638	17,060	68.22
2007	4,238	1,797	2,135	2,856	11,056	16,632	66.29
2008	3,902	2,105	1,737	3,152	10,797	16,196	66.66
2009	2,872	2,414	2,882	3,197	10,765	17,368	61.98
2010	3,141	2,525	2,585	2,363	10,654	15,964	66.49
2011	3,337	2,006	2,100	1,326	8,969	14,027	63.94
Totals (2003-11)	33,752	20,610	19,083	23,956	97,401	1,49,783	65.03
Totals (1995-11)	53,818	33,326	37,153	42,388	1,66,685	270,940	61.52

Source@ Table derived from national crime record bureau report 1995-2011.

From the table, it can understand the suicide rate of the Indian farmers. At the end of the year -1995 to 2011 around 61.52% farmers suicide rate has been increased in the year 2000, 2001, 2004, 2006, 2008 and 2010, and in the year. 1998, 2002, 2003, 2009, suicide rate has decreased.

Maharashtra is one of the federal states of India and its 75% of population depends upon agriculture. The Maharashtra region was divided into Western Maharashtra, North Maharashtra, Konkan, Vidharbha, & Marathwada.

Since 1990's the proportion of farmers suicide was increasing in the regions of Vidharbha Marathwada due to natural disasters, debt trap, lack of proper policies implemented by government, mismatch between cost of production & price of farmer's produce etc.

The number of farmer's suicide in Maharashtra is shown in the table.

Year	Maharashtra	Yearly total all-India Farmers suicide	Maharashtra As % of all farmers suicide
1995	1,083	10,720	10.10
1996	1,981	13,729	14.43
1997	1,917	13,622	14.07
1998	2,409	16,015	15.04

1999	2,423	16,082	15.07
2000	3,022	16,603	18.20
2001	3,516	16,415	21.42
2002	3,695	17,971	20.56
Totals (1995-02)	20,066	1,21,157	16.56
2003	3,836	17,164	22.35
2004	4,147	18,241	22.73
2005	3,926	17,131	22.92
2006	4,453	17,060	26.10
2007	4,238	16,632	25.48
2008	3,902	16,196	24.09
2009	2,872	17,368	16.54
2010	3,141	15,964	19.68
2011	3,337	14,027	23.79
Totals (2003-11)	33,752	1,49,783	22.53
Totals (1995-11)	53,818	270,940	19.86

Source: Table derived from National Crime Record Bureau Report 1995-2011

The table shows that the percentage of farmers suicide in Maharashtra to total farmers suicide in India for the years 1995 to 2011. The proportion of farmers suicide in Maharashtra is 10.10% in 1995 (i.e. minimum) and whereas in 2006 the proportion of farmers suicide is 26.10% (i.e. maximum). But however the proportion from 1995 to 2002 was 16.56% whereas the proportion from 2003 to 2011 was 22.53%. It indicates that there is increase in the proportion of farmer's suicide in Maharashtra.

In Maharashtra the two regions badly affected from the problem of suicide i.e. Marathwada and vidarbha. Marathwada had 435 farmers' suicides, Vidarbha 276 and Khandesh 133. Overall, 860 farmers killed themselves in 2011.

CAUSES FOR THE FARMERS SUICIDE IN MAHARASHTRA:

1. Uncertainty in Monsoon:-

Agriculture in Maharashtra mostly depends on monsoons; near about 80% of cultivated land depend on rainfall. However there is gamble in monsoons, it effects the production and lives of the farmers.

2. Low Productivity

In Maharashtra cultivated land is distributed unevenly most of the farmers are marginal farmers i.e. holding less than two acres of land, which is cause of low productivity in agriculture, this leads suicides among the farmers.

3. Government policy in Maharashtra:-

The government of Maharashtra initially i.e. up to 1990 has given importance to agriculture after wards priority has given an importance to Industrial & Service sector; this has reduced the amount being invested in agriculture it has affected on the lives of farmers this has induce to increase in the proration of farmer's suicide.

4. Insufficient credit:-

The government of India has nationalized 21 private banks to supply the credit to the farmers in each and every corner of the country but public sector banks has failed to fulfill their credit requirements ultimately they have depend upon money lenders who charged high interest. This has brought farmers

under debt trap and is one of reason for suicide.

5. Mismatch between minimum support price (&) production cost:-

Maharashtra government every year announcing the minimum support price for agricultural produce but which is less than the production cost, so the farmer unable to earn excess income. This induces to commit suicide. .

6. Reduced in agriculture subsidies

The government reduced different types of subsidies, due to the fluctuations prices in the market. It has adversely affected on agriculture. It increased the input cost and made agriculture less profitable.

7. Decrease in the Government investment in agricultural sector

After globalization, the government expenditure and investment in agriculture has been drastically decreased because of its policy of minimum intervention.

The expenditure of the government in rural development including agriculture, irrigation, flood control, village industry, energy and transport declined from an average of 14.5% to 6%. The rate of capital formation of agriculture came down, and the agricultural growth also was much reduced affecting the lives of farmers very much.

9. Lack of food security

The public distributing system in the country is very poor aiming only at the vote bank. The poor security of food products has a very negative impact on agricultural market. India has starving. Yet food stocks are rotting in open storage places. Greedy middlemen are exploiting the situation. Hunger and malnutrition are forcing the poor Indians to despair and death.

REMEDIES FOR FARMER'S SUICIDE

1. Irrigation:

In Maharashtra 80% of land is dry land which is solely depend upon monsoon the government of Maharashtra has to provide Irrigation facilities by construction dams, project etc. Which increase the productivity of agriculture, it helps to overcome the problem of farmers' suicide.

2. Infrastructure:

The government of Maharashtra has to develop the infrastructure facilities such as Electricity, Transport, Etc. which helps to reduce the proportion of farmer suicide.

3. Co-operative farming:

The government has to induce to marginal farmers for co-operative farming by providing various incentives; this helps to reduce the cost of production and increased the income of the farmers which will be useful to minimize the farmer's suicide.

4. Modern technology:

It is necessary to adopt modern technology by the farmers which helps to increase the productivity agriculture, training & modern equipment shall be provided by the government at free of cost. This helps to increase the income of the farmers.

5. Awareness:

The agricultural education centers should be developed at grass root level to guide and creating awareness among the farmers about the fertility of land, seeds, multi cropping etc, which enables to increase the productivity which in turn increases the income of the farmer.

6. Financial Inclusion:

It's one of the most important factors to overcome the problem of farmer's suicide in Maharashtra yet more than 50% of farmers are not accessing any financial institution and they rely on money lenders. If financial institutions reach in each every corner of the country through their business correspondence it will be beneficial to the farmers they get loan on time at chapter rate this helps to increase production, ultimately increase in income of the farmers.

7. Minimum support price:

The government of Maharashtra has to announce the minimum support price on time to time and the minimum support price must be more than the cost of cultivation, the minimum support price should be announce on time and most of the agricultural products should include in minimum support price.

8. Agriculture Budget:

The government has two present the special agriculture budget such as Railway budget which helps to the farmers timely availability of loans, equipments Infrastructure etc. which helps to increase in the income of the marginal & small farmers ultimately it reduce the proportion of farmers suicide in Maharashtra.

CONCLUSION:

Farmer's suicide is one of the acute problems not only in Maharashtra but it is also in India. The number of farmer's suicide is going on increasing each and every year since 1990's to overcome the problem of farmer's suicide, the government has to take a keen interest towards this issue. The government has to frame & implement fruitful policies to increase the productivity in agriculture and to increase the income of the marginal & small farmers.

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