

The background is a vibrant blue with a complex network of glowing white and light blue lines and particles. A prominent feature is a large, glowing, double-helix-like structure in the upper half, resembling a DNA molecule or a complex network. The overall aesthetic is futuristic and scientific.

# **MULTIDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH**

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**Prof. Rajani Shikhare**

MULTIDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH - Prof. Rajani Shikhare

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## 'Farmer suicide a social problem'

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### Introduction:

India is an agricultural country. Agriculture is the main source of food for a large part of the country's population. This means that farmers provide food to the people of India, but even so, farmer suicides are on the rise today. The state of Maharashtra is no exception. The number of farmer suicides in the state is increasing day by day. The number of suicides has increased in Marathwada, Vidarbha and Khandesh.

Agriculture is the main source of income for the Indian economy. Agriculture accounts for half of the total national income. These include animal husbandry, forestry, agro-industries, etc. But unfortunately Indian agriculture can be said to be backward. Dr. In the context of Indian agriculture, Clouston said that India has untouchability as well as backward industries. Unfortunately, agriculture is one of them. Due to the fact that Indian agriculture is dependent on nature, the increasing suicides of Indian farmers are not only a matter of concern but have become a burning issue or a national issue in India.

**Keywords:** Farmer Suicide, Sociological perspective, Suicide causes.

### Objective :

1. To study of Farmer suicide from a Sociological perspective.
2. To search the causes of Farmer suicide.
3. To suggest the suitable remedies.

### Data Collection:

A secondary data collection method has been used for the research paper. Like as a reference book, magazine, internet etc.

### **Sociological analysis of Farmer suicide:**

Suicide is generally considered a personal cause. The person manages his death according to his own will. Suicide is indirectly a personal act. But in reality it is not so. All kinds of individuals are personal; it is not easy to bridge personal and social gaps. But from a scientific point of view, it is easy to understand that the actions we take are social. Suicide is also an act that is committed on a person due to the pressure of social conditions.

Although suicide may seem personal, a specific social situation forces a person to commit suicide, so suicide is a social phenomenon.

Emile Durkheim in his book *The Suicide*, defines suicide from a social point of view. According to the term suicide is applied to all cases of death resulting directly or indirectly from a positive or negative act of the victim himself, which he knows will produce this result. According to Durkheim, suicide is a social fact. According to him, the occurrence of suicide is not mental or personal. Suicide is directly or indirectly responsible for social factors or social conditions, so suicide is a social or social reality. Due to the dependent nature of agriculture in India, the increasing drought has led to a crisis in the lives of farmers and a sudden change in the economic landscape. Fluctuations in the economic sector create an imbalance in the lives of farmers and lead them to commit suicide.

### **Causes of Farmers suicides:**

#### **Natural Disasters:**

Droughts are frequently occurring in the country, especially in Maharashtra. As a result, agriculture is suffering due to lack of water and farmers have to bear the loss of income. Also, the problem of hailstorm for the last few years and the problem of excess rainfall has made the farmers in Maharashtra distraught. Due to the drought situation in Maharashtra, the number of villages whose orchards have been damaged due to hailstorms and heavy rains last year is high, So such natural calamities are leading to farmer suicide.

#### **Lack of Infrastructure:**

Lack of basic infrastructure required for agriculture is very prevalent in rural areas. There is a lack of electricity, water and modern technology required for agriculture. Due to load shedding in the areas where water is available, it is becoming difficult for farmers to irrigate their crops. Also fake seeds are sold to farmers at higher prices by seed companies or the maximum price is recovered

by creating artificial scarcity. The farmer often sows fake seeds in his land but they do not germinate so the labor of the farmer is wasted and nothing is achieved, as a result the farmer is not paid the house expenses so the farmer starts thinking badly of suicide and from that thought he commits suicide.

**Indebtedness:**

Indebtedness in the country and in Maharashtra is the reason for farmers committing suicide. Farmers take loans for improved seeds, irrigation, chemical fertilizers, pesticides to get maximum yield from agriculture. Farmers are unable to repay the loan as production is done but agricultural commodities are not getting the expected rate. In some cases, foreclosure action is often taken. Since the loan has to be taken from the lender on time at high interest rate, the loan is not repaid from the income. At such times, private lenders do not hesitate to confiscate the land. As a result, the farmers become depressed and commit suicide.

**Government indifference:**

Farmers commit suicide due to non-repayment of loans from agricultural income. The families of such suicidal farmers are assisted by the government. But since such help is scarce, the question arises as to how the victim's family will be able to make ends meet and meet their basic needs. It also helps farmers on the basis of drought, but we see that there is discrimination. Also, the government's indifference to the fact that drought funds are not distributed to farmers on time leads to farmer suicides.

'The latest data released by the NCRB report revealed that 10349 farmer suicide in India in 2018. That means 28 farmers killed themselves every day in 2018. Untimely rains and drought conditions also reason for high number of farmer suicide.'

**Suggestions:**

The Government of India as well as the State Government provide financial assistance to the farmers for their support. Therefore, it tries to alleviate the suffering of the farmers by providing financial assistance. But this financial support from the government is short-lived. If there is a drought in a year, the government helps the farmers, but if there is a continuous drought, then it is important for the government to take some measures and the farmers also need to help. The following are some measures to permanently prevent farmer suicides.

**To training farmers:**

It is not that the government does not provide training to the farmers but also to set up a large number of training centers to help the farmers to get maximum yield by taking low cost crops as well as how to cultivate their land by recognizing the texture of the soil and what crops to grow in it. This should be done so that their financial loss can be avoided and the government should make efforts to provide technology to all the farmers so that the suicides of the farmers can be completely curbed.

**To provide other sources of income along with agriculture :**

Although agriculture is the backbone of rural India's economy, the day-to-day drought has left farmers in a state of shock. To prevent this, the government needs to work with the agricultural sector to acquire the skills required for new employment. Also, in rural areas, smallholder farmers can be prevented from committing suicide by eliminating their unemployment by launching employment generation programs in case of drought. For this, it is very important to provide other sources of income along with agriculture.

**Guarantee of agricultural commodities :**

The government should improve the market machinery so that the farmers can get the expected price for their produce. It is also necessary to reduce the chain of middlemen. This will alleviate the financial difficulties of the farmers and end suicide.

**Farmers abandon traditional farming methods:**

Indian agriculture is dependent on nature and farmers have to face drought, heavy rains and hailstorms as nature continues to fluctuate. Therefore, effective management of available water is essential. For this, if the farmers change the irrigation system, they can get maximum income from agriculture by making proper use of water. For this, it is necessary to change the traditional irrigation system and do drip farming. Therefore, if the income is taken from agriculture, the suicide of farmers can be prevented.

**Stopping unreasonable expenses by farmers:**

Due to drought, hailstorm and heavy rains in the state, it has become unbearable for the farmers to make a living. Therefore, even today, due to high expenditure on all these matters in rural areas, farmers are found in the cycle of debt. Therefore, they are not able to get out of the debt trap. As a result, the

basic needs of the family are often not met for subsistence. Therefore, intoxicated people often commit suicide out of frustration.

**Summary:**

Every year, natural disasters cause farmers to become disillusioned and commit suicide. The Central Government and the State Governments try their best to help the farmers. But that help is meager. Drought has been raging in the state for years now. The government is providing temporary help but steps have been taken for long term reforms but those steps need to be comprehensive. It requires public participation. To provide alternative sources of income to the farmers even if they get less income from farming in a year so that the farmer will be successful in meeting the needs of his family. Therefore, the farmer will refrain from committing suicide. Although suicide may seem personal on the surface, certain social conditions force a person to commit suicide, so suicide is a social phenomenon.

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