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Socio-economic, psychological and situational profile of farmer suicide in Jalna district

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Abstract

The present investigation was conducted during 2017-18 in Jalna district of Marathwada region in Maharashtra State. The main objective of the study was to study relationship between selected characteristics of suicide Farmers' with their identified risk factors of suicide. From this district four talukas were selected based on considerable farmer suicide cases. Twenty nine villages were selected randomly based on considerable farmer suicide cases. Forty victims was selected randomly for the study. The ex-post facto research design was used for the study. The data were collected with help of pretested interview schedule from the victim's households as per their convenience at their home. The statistical methods and test such as frequency, percentage, mean, standard deviation and correlation of coefficient were used for analysis of data. It is noticed that most of the victims were having middle age (75.00%), male gender (92.50%), married (97.00%), (30.00%) victims were high school, (70.00%) victims belong to open category, (67.50%) victims were from nuclear family, (45.00%) suicide were concentrated in middle size family, half of victims(47.50%) had farming experience between 12 to 28 year, (52.05%) victims were possessing marginal (up to 1.00 ha) land holding, (85.00%) were found to be engaged in agriculture / labour as, medium annual income between Rs. 1476 to 1,42,871 (90.00%), (82.50%) victims had medium socio-economic status, (90.00%) victims had light type of land (soil), (90.00%) victims had no source of irrigation, (70.00%) victims had cotton based cropping pattern, (97.50%) victims were founded indebted. Also the result showed that cast, land holding, annual income, socio- economic status, indebtedness was found to be positively and highly significantly related with Socio-psycho risk factor of suicide. Also the result showed that relationship of profile of farmer with family size was found to be positively and significantly related with Socio-psycho risk factor of suicide.

Keywords: relationship of suicide farmer, profile of suicide farmers

Introduction

The problem cannot be solved through economic packages alone. What are needed are social and spiritual interventions so that the farmers realize that suicide is not the way out they should understand that they need to develop self-confidence. The future generation should have the mental strength to face life's challenges. (Ammu, 2007) [1]. Suicide is an activity which involves acts with the aim and result of one's own biological death on basis of social specific historical motives. Farmer suicide has turned out to be a major socio-economic concern in India that has resulted in profound implications on the quality life of farmers. According to the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (UNCSD), one farmer committed suicide for every 32 minutes between 1997 and 2005 in India. Lack of social support (including living alone), unemployment, drop in socio economic status, poor relationship with family, domestic partner violence, recent stressful life event etc. are the psycho-social features associated with an increased a relative risk for suicide.

Methodology

The present investigation conducted in Jalna district in Marathwada region of Maharashtra state. From this district four talukas was selected based on considerable farmer suicide cases. Twenty nine villages were selected randomly based on considerable farmer suicide cases. Forty victims was selected randomly for the study. The ex-post facto research design was used for the study. The data was collected with help of pretested interview schedule from the victim's households as per their convenience at their home. The statistical methods and test such as frequency, percentage, mean, standard deviation and correlation of coefficient were used for analysis of data.

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Results

Table 1: Distribution of Farmers according to their personal, socio-economical, psychological and situational characteristics (N=40)

Sl. No.	Category	Frequency (F)	Per cent (%)
A.	Age		
1.	Young (Up to 33)	06	15.00
2.	Middle (34 to 55)	30	75.00
3.	Old (56 and Above)	04	10.00
B.	Education		
1.	Illiterate	09	22.50
2.	Primary school (1 st to 4 th)	10	25.00
3.	Middle school (5 th to 7 th)	04	10.00
4.	High school (8 th to 10 th)	12	30.00
5.	Higher secondary school (11 th to 12 th)	04	10.00
6.	Graduate (level UG)	00	00.00
7.	Post graduate	01	2.50
C.	Caste		
1.	Schedule Caste (SC)	02	05.00
2.	Schedule Tribe (ST)	05	12.50
3.	Other Backward Class (OBC)	05	12.50
4.	Open	28	70.00
D.	Family type		
1.	Nuclear	27	67.50
2.	Joint	13	32.50
E.	Family Size		
1.	Small (Up to 3)	17	42.50
2.	Medium (4 to 6)	18	45.00
3.	Large (7 to 9)	02	05.00
4.	Very large (10 and Above)	03	07.50
F.	Farming experience		
1.	Up to 11	09	22.50
2.	12 to 28	19	47.50
3.	29 and Above	12	30.00
G.	Land holding		
1.	Marginal (Up to 1.00 ha.)	21 (52.05)	14 (29.04)
2.	Small (1.01 to 2.00 ha.)	16 (40.00)	23.80 (49.37)
3.	Semi-medium (2.01 to 4.00 ha.)	02 (05.00)	5.2 (10.78)
4.	Medium (4.01 to 10.00 ha.)	01 (2.5)	5.2 (10.78)
5.	Big (10.01 and above)	00 (00)	00 (00)
H.	Subsidiary occupation		
1.	Agriculture + Labor	34	85.00
2.	Agriculture (only farming)	05	12.50
3.	Agriculture + Business (professional / Nonprofessional)	01	02.50
I.	Annual income		
1.	Low	00	00.00
2.	Medium	36	90.00
3.	High	04	10.00
J.	Socio-economic status		
1.	Low	01	02.50
2.	Medium	33	82.50
3.	High	06	15.00
K.	Type of land		
1.	Light	36	90.00
2.	Medium	04	10.00
3.	Heavy	00	00.00
L.	Irrigation facilities		
1.	No source	34	85.00
2.	Dam	01	02.50
3.	Canal	04	10.00
4.	Farm pond	01	02.50
5.	Well / Tube well	00	00.00
6.	Lake	00	00.00
7.	River	00	00.00
M.	Cropping pattern		
1.	Less diversified	00	00.00
2.	Moderately diversified	38	95.00
3.	Highly diversified	02	5.00

Table 2: Coefficient of Correlation of selected characteristics of the Victims with their identified number of Socio-psycho Risk Factors of Suicides (N=40)

Sr. No.	Characteristics	"r" value
A. Personal		
1	Age	-0.101 ^{NS}
2	Education	0.031 ^{NS}
3	Caste	-0.261 ^{**}
4	Family size	0.238 ^{**}
5	Family type	0.092 ^{NS}
6	Farming experience	0.157 ^{NS}
B. Socio-economic		
7	Land holding	0.259 ^{**}
8	Subsidiary occupation	0.032 ^{NS}
9	Annual income	0.348 ^{**}
10	Socio-economic status	0.505 ^{**}
C. Situational		
11	Type of land	-0.007 ^{NS}
12	Irrigation facilities	0.141 ^{NS}
13	Agriculture infrastructure	-0.141 ^{NS}
14	Cropping pattern	0.046 ^{NS}
15	Indebtedness	0.771 ^{**}
16	Livelihood pattern	-0.137 ^{NS}
17	Extent of family responsibility fulfilled	0.105 ^{NS}
D. Socio-psychological		
18	Victim's habits	-0.083 ^{NS}
19	Victim's health	0.163 ^{NS}
20	Family health	-0.098 ^{NS}
21	Family disputes	0.032 ^{NS}

** Significant at 0.01 level of probability *Significant at 0.05 level of probability

The majority of the victims were under middle (75.00 %) age category, followed by young (15.00 %) and remaining (10.00 %) victims were found under old age category, 77.50 percent were literates and remaining (22.50%) were illiterate. Within the literates (30.00%) were educated up to High school. While (25.00%) had primary school level education, 70.00 percent suicide cases were belonged to open category and mostly the Maratha's were observed, followed by victims belong to Schedule Tribe (ST) and Other Backward Class (OBC) were 12.50 percent (Maximum from Andh and Mali), majority of victims (67.50%) were from nuclear type of families, 45.00 percent suicides were concentrated in medium size family, followed by 42.50 percent victims having small family, 47.50 percent of the victims had farming experience between 12 to 28 years, 52.05 percent of the victim's were Marginal farmers having land holding up to 1.00 hectares, followed by 40.00 per cent victims were marginal farmers possessing land between 1.01 to 2.00 hectare, 85.00 percent were engaged in farm labor for wages earning as a subsidiary occupation to farming, 90.00 percent had annual income between (Rs.1476 to Rs 1,42,871), 82.50 per cent medium socio-economic status, 90.00 percent victims having light type of land, 85.00 percent victims had not any source to access the irrigation, Majority of victims were growing cotton (70.00%), followed by soybean (65.00%) in kharif season.

The result presented that, out of 21 variables, Caste, show negative and highly significant relationship, Land holding, Annual income, Socio-economic status and Indebtedness show positive and highly significant relationship, Family size significant relationship between the socio-psycho risk factor of suicide at 0.01 level of probability. Out of 21 variables 15 variables namely Age, Education, Family type, Farming experience, Subsidiary occupation, Type of land, Agriculture infrastructure, Cropping pattern, Livelihood pattern, Extend of family responsibility fulfilled, Victims habits, Victims

health, Victims family health and Family dispute could not show any significant relationship with the socio-psycho risk factors of farmers suicide.

Conclusion

1. The majority of victims had not any subsidiary occupation. Hence, it is recommended to promote dairy 4 buffalos and back yard poultry with the flock size of fifty birds, so that small and marginal farmers can get the regular income source and majority of victims had poor cropping pattern with very low productivity level, it is therefore suggested that study may be conducted on the cropping pattern and cultivation practices followed by farmers in the farming.
2. The result showed that cast, land holding, annual income, socio- economic status, indebtedness were found to be positively and highly significantly related with Socio-psycho risk factor of suicide. Also the result showed that relationship of profile of farmer with family size were found to be positively and significantly related with Socio-psycho risk factor of suicide.

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