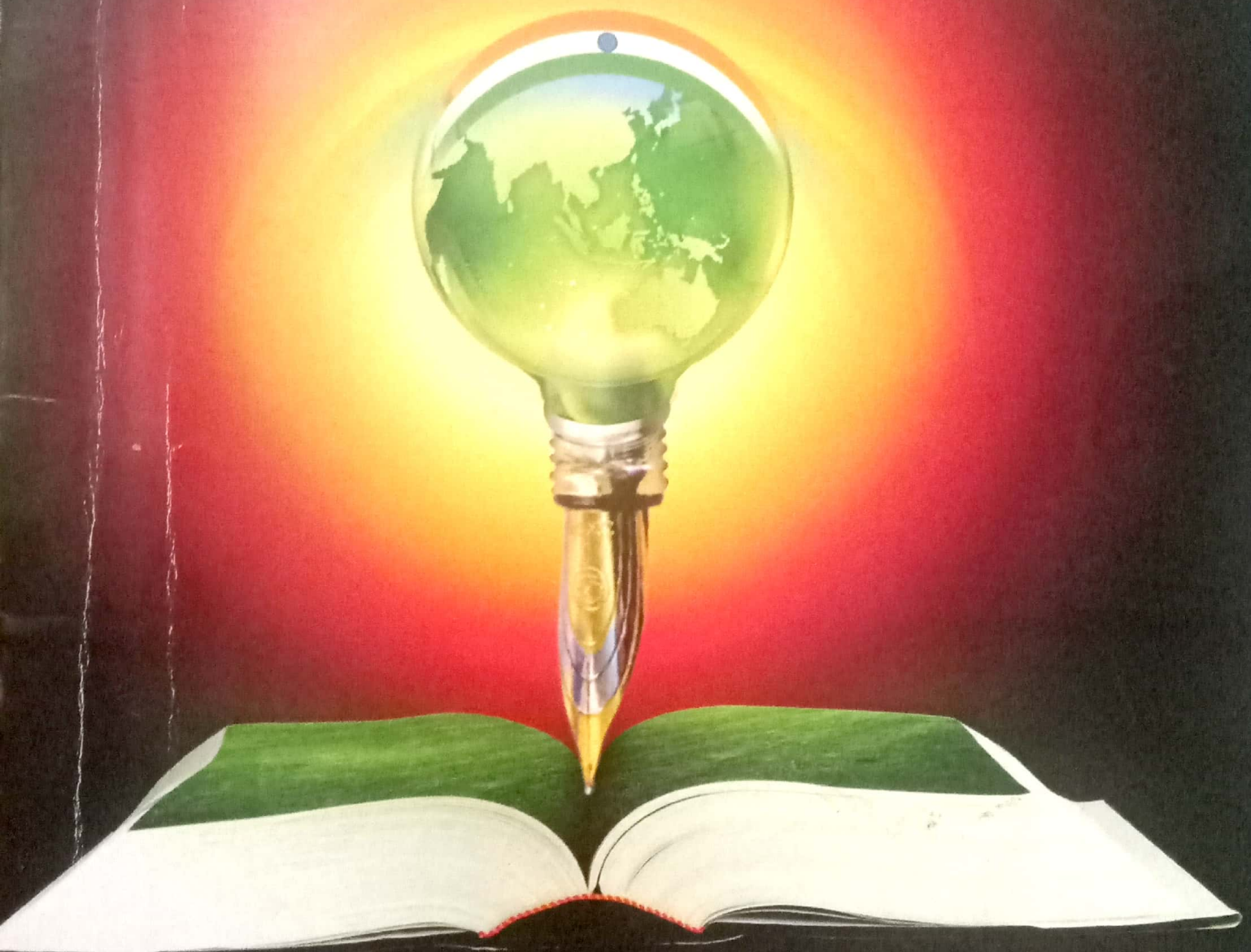


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Agricultural distress: Rising of farmers' Problems & Suicide

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Abstract:-

Indian farmer who works without any prior training when enters into his work he faced many problems such as huge indebtedness, poverty, low standard of living, pessimistic outlook etc. the one of the major effects of these problems is agrarian crisis in India. Farmers suicides are raising day by day. The five States Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh & Chhattisgarh are the top most states where farmers suicides is rising constantly. Crop failure indebtedness, bankruptcy, government policies, vicious circle of poverty, illiteracy, pessimistic outlook, domestic affairs, drug addiction, old traditions etc are the major cause responsible for it. This paper aims to give an overview on a complex topic Agricultural distress.

Keywords:- Agrarian crisis, Farmers' suicides, Agricultural distress.

Introduction:-

Currently India is the world's second largest agricultural producer, just behind China. In India, one out of four people are farmers or agricultural workers. In addition, nearly 60% of India's rural households depend on agriculture as their main source of income. On average these agricultural farmers make around 6,700 Rupees (\$100) a month. However, the average debt for an Indian farmer is 47,000 Rupees (\$750). The most threatening part about this debt is the likelihood of its growth, primarily due to the high interest rates and the low Farming can be a very a risky business, due to the unpredictability of the weather, crops, and markets. This level of unpredictability, specifically for smaller farmers has led many into agrarian distress, causing them to take their own lives. There have been reports of several suicides, as many as 12,000 a year. If these reports are true than this is extremely alarming. This would equate to 1,000 suicides each month, 100 suicides each week, nearly thirty-six each day, and almost one and half each hour. "On average, one farmer commits suicide every 30 minutes in India," (Center for Human Rights and Global Justice, 2011). One suicide is bad, but suicides at these rates are very troubling. As a result, there is a great deal of strain on these farmers and their families. Ultimately the big question to be asked is "why?". Why are these farmers suffering from agrarian distress and committing suicide? What are the factors causing this type of strain to push people to suicide? There have been several reasons cause of these suicides i.e. debt, increased cost of production, globalization, and exploitation from money lending sources. Although there are many factors, it seems there is a common thread among all of these simply put, it's poverty. It all seems to come down to poverty in India. All these constitute a pre-condition of the distress in the sector.

Objectives:-

- 1) To get the information about the causes of agricultural distress.
- 2) To suggest the remedies for farmers suicide.

Research Methodology:-

This researcher has adopted the method of reviewing different research articles, research

journals, and case studies, to collect data. The information required for the study has been collected from secondary sources.

Farmer Suicides in India:-

In the late 1990s, there has been a sharp increase in the number of suicides among farmers in India. More than half of all officially documented suicides committed by farmers in India occurred in the three Southern states of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, and Maharashtra. The typically cited story is about a middle aged farmer owning a small piece of land where he grows a cash crop. Cash crops require expensive inputs while the prices of output depend on volatile world market prices that have been falling since the mid 1990s. Additionally, India has embraced various cuts of subsidies. Moreover, timing and quantity of monsoon rains in semi-arid India are unpredictable and a farmer might be exposed to more than one year of severe drought. This problem is more severe in the absence of appropriate irrigation technology. However, some sources of irrigation have been associated with suicide cases in the popular press. For instance, sinking a bore well is associated with high costs and at the same time a high possibility of being unsuccessful. On the top of the above mentioned challenges, it should be mentioned that many farmers are highly indebted. Investments in better seeds or fertilizer and adopting a better irrigation technology have led to high levels of debt. In many cases, farmers pledge their lands as collateral to obtain credit. It is various perceived reasons for farmer's suicides in the various region of Country. Farmers perceived debt, addiction, environmental problems. The main cause behind suicides found were indebtedness, low productivity, crop failure, low income, more expenditure than income and inability to fulfill requirements. Poor prices for farm produce stress and family responsibilities. Weak irrigation increased cost of cultivation. Private money lenders, use of chemical fertilizers and crop failure are the reasons for farmer's suicide. All these factors constitute agrarian distress reaching the level of committing suicide. Farmers suicide have to be viewed as a National disaster. Tens of thousand of farmers in different states have committed suicide. These suicide can no more be considered isolated cases of farmer's deaths but a symbol of deepening crisis of Indian agriculture. Financial stress constant financial pressure related to the farm crisis and ongoing drought and flood which add to a economic problem.

Farmer suicides are a symptom of the inequality in the socioeconomic structure of India. The people affected by farmer suicides are the poor and lower castes. The main reasons for suicide often cited are indebtedness and crop failure (Gyanmudra, 2007). The problem of farmers' suicide is meaningful because it shows the negative effects globalization can have on countries, industries, and more importantly, humans. The agricultural crisis has been exacerbated by globalization. While there was a Green Revolution from the 1970's up until the balance of payments crisis in 1991, by the 2000's, growth in the agricultural sector declined (Deshpande, 2010). Suicide itself is a public health issue. Factors leading up to committing suicide include many neurobiological factors, as well as personal issues. Many of the suicide victims in India had been found to have suffered from some of the following issues: depression, alcoholism, anti-social behavior, impulsiveness, aggression, frequent mood changes, social inactivity, absconding before committing suicide, and criminal acts (Deshpande, 2010). Addressing farmer suicides would also address many personal issues affecting those outside of agriculture, who also suffer from depression and anxiety.

Farmers Suicide in 5 Most Affected states (2001-2015)

Year	Maharashtra	Madhya Pradesh & Chhattisgarh	Andhra Pradesh	Karnataka	Total
2001	3316	2824	1509	2505	10154
2002	3695	2578	1896	2340	10509
2003	3826	2511	1800	2678	10815
2004	4147	3033	2666	1963	11809
2005	3936	2660	2490	1883	10969
2006	4453	2858	2607	1720	11638
2007	4238	2856	1797	2135	11026
2008	3802	3152	2105	1737	10796
2009	2872	3197	2414	2282	10765
2010	3141	2363	2525	2585	10614
2011	3337	1326	2206	2100	8969
2012	3786	1172	2572	1875	9405
2013	3146	1090	2014	1403	7653
2014	2568	1269	898	321	5056
2015	3228	100	116	1350	4794
Total	57,744	32,989	29,615	28,877	145,193

In India, more than 222,027 committed suicides during 2001 to 2015 while 57,744 farmers committed suicides in Maharashtra for the same period. Maharashtra is at first place in farmers suicide in India. The big five States are Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh follow closely, nearly 60-61% of farmer suicides being reported from these states. Maharashtra is known by progressive and developed state but in other side number of suicide is maximum in India because the average of farmers suicide is 3849 which is more than other four state due to failure of cotton crops and increasing debt during the period 2001 to 2015.

Suggestion to prevent Farmers Suicides in india:-

- 1) Farmers should make educated so they will become positive in life.
- 2) Government should be adopted a appropriate price policy for the farmers so that they will get optimum reward for their hard work.
- 3) Develop the saving in banking habits among the small and marginal farmers. so that they save enough to meet their emergencies needs.
- 4) Farmers should give credit facilities to start a agriculture subsidiary activities life fishing, horticulture, floriculture, etc. to avoid the underemployment among them.

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