



Priyadarshni Mahila Mahavidhyalya College Wardha

SUMMARY OF THE MINOR RESEARCH PROJECT

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Title of Project

“Problems of Farmers Widows: A Sociological study in Wardha District”

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“Problems of Farmers Widows: A Sociological study in Wardha District”

Introduction

Wardha, a place of great historical significance where Mahatma Gandhi spent his prime phase of his freedom struggle and inspired women to come forward to shoulder responsibility in the freedom movement, is now facing crises of farmers' suicide.

Agriculture is the mainstay of the Indian economy and the fortunes of this sector determine even today the performance of the entire economy. More important, it is the largest source of employment: nearly 650 million men and women, constituting around 57 percent of our population depend on this sector for their livelihood.

An estimated quarter of a million Indian farmers have committed suicide since 1995. The Vidarbha region of India's Maharashtra state is seen as the epicentre of farmers' suicide crisis that has gripped India's cash crop farmers. From 1995 to 2013 in Maharashtra, 36848 farmers committed suicide and in Wardha district of Vidarbha during 2001 to 2014, 1146 farmers have taken their life (Table 1).

These farmers and their families are among the victims of India's longstanding agrarian crisis. Over the past two decades, economic reforms and the opening of Indian agriculture to the global market have increased costs, while reducing yields and profits for many farmers, to the point of great financial and emotional distress. Behere (2008) and Pihul (2011) in their study of the families of farmer's suicide observed that, the surviving family members, mainly widows of those who killed themselves in distress are prone to depression and tend to have suicidal tendencies too.

Cause for Farmers Suicide

According to Durkheim (1952:13), “Suicide is an individual phenomenon the causes of which are essentially social in nature”. Farmers' Suicide is a social fact and its causes are deeply rooted in governmental policy as well as social structure itself. The major reasons turn out to be increased indebtedness, harassment by bank agents and *Sahukars* (private money lenders), crop failure and desperation at the lack of viable solutions.

Farm Suicide: Impact on farm households

Farmer Suicide has significant impact on farm households, especially on the women, a growing proportion of women are the sole or principal earner of their households. Kishor Tiwari of Vidarbha Jan Andolan Committee (Peoples' Protest Forum), is pioneer amongst those who put these issue at policy level and organized farm widows for justice. described that, “Farm widows are matter of national shame is bolt to the country who are talking second green revolution”.

Reviews of Literature

Rationale for presenting the review of literature is that it would provide the larger picture of the agrarian crisis, which is providing a context for our study. We found it useful as a background while discussing the issues in the field, and also while interviewing women.

The literature can be divided in six parts.

1. Agrarian Crisis and Recommendations
2. Caste factor
3. Lack of political lobby and united front of farmers
4. Causes of suicides including psychological stresses
5. Lack of support systems; family, community and mental health professionals
6. Preventive mechanisms including no easy access to the means of suicides.

The recommendations form a large part of these studies, which would be dealt later, in the next section.

Objective of the Study:

The present study is the modest effort to bring out the ground reality of the widows of the farmers who have committed suicide in Wardha district of Maharashtra State

1. To study the socio-economic background of Farmers widows in the context of the present study.
2. To document the family background and the problems there in and the changes in them over a period of time.
3. To examine the socio. Economic and psychological problems of farmer's widows.
4. To know the expectations of these women from family, society and government
5. To study the interventions made by government and NGO's to mitigate the adverse impact of farmer's suicide and its effects on the family and community life of the farm widows.

Methodology

The present study has developed certain incisive insights into the problems of farmer's widows. Thus all the widows of the farmers who have committed suicide in the areas of Wardha district constitute the universe of the proposed study but keeping in view the constraints of time,

energy and money, the researcher restricted himself to a sample of 100 women from 08 Tahsils.

Suicides during 2005 and 2010 have considered for the purpose of sampling. The study is mainly analytical and descriptive in nature. The focus in the study is to describe the socio-economic background and various dimensions of their problems. Interview schedule is used as the major tools of data collection. However, keeping in view the qualitative approach to the problem, observation of the respondents also incorporated into the tools and instruments of data collection.

The difficulties experienced in implementing the project :

Researcher find it difficult to trace the respondents villages. Sometimes the respondents shifted from the native village to another. So researcher had to visit that village it was time consuming. Therefore it has created difficulty to collect the information.

Status of Farmers suicide in Wardha district during 2005-2010

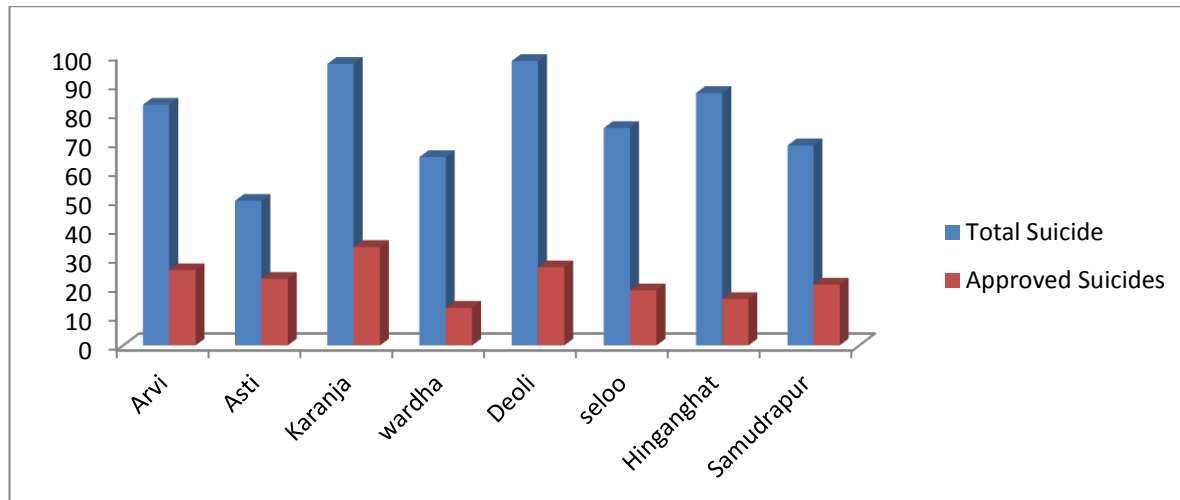
In this study the span of 2005 to 2010 was considered. Wardha district id divided in to 8 administrative blocks. The list was available with government machinery. Actual number of suicide and government approved number varies because of the rules imbedded.

Table 2

Sr. No.	Tahsil (Administrative Block)	Number of Farmers Suicides	Suicides considered as farmers suicide as per Govt. rules	Sample
1	Arvi	83	26	10
2	Asti	50	23	12
3	Karanja	97	34	17
4	Wardha	65	13	10
5	Deoli	98	27	19
6	Seloo	75	19	11
7	Hinganghat	87	16	10
8	Samudrapur	69	21	11
Total		626	179	100

In Wardha district during 2005-2010 total number of suicide is 626. Out of 626 only 179 was considered for government help, as they fitted in to the criteria, it comes to 28.59 % . . for this

study researcher considered 55 percent cases as a sample.



Caste wise status of the respondents

Caste as a system of social stratification remains an important aspect in village India. Caste system has greater operational or functional role in the village compared to cities.

Caste wise status of the respondents

Sr. No.	Caste	Percentages
1	Kunbi	36
2	Teli	19
3	Mali	9
4	Bhoyar Pawar	12
5	Mahar (Boudhha)	12
6	Khat Wadi	01
7	Banjara	01
8	Chambhar	01
9	Gond	04
10	Gawali	01
11	Lodhi	01
12	Mana	01
13	Maratha	01
14	Gawari	01

Major Issues of the Farmers' widows

- Issue of land right of farm widows.
- Issue of debts of husband
- Issue of compensation from Government

- Issue of pension under social security scheme
- Issue of Family support system
- Issue of Remarriage and psychological support
- Suicidal Tendencies

After the death of husband the entire responsibility lies on the widow. In a situation of distress she faces difficulties in managing the household along with farming activity as a female head of the family. Various reports and studies on the farmers' suicide addressed mainly economic and policy failure in this regard, but the role of social fabric is missing in all studies. This social fabric must be strengthened to cope with this calamity.

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