



Farmer's Suicides: A Case Study Of Nellore District, Andhra Pradesh

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Abstract:

The farmers committed suicides in Andhra Pradesh due to the failure of monsoons leading to a series of droughts, lack of remunerative prices, exploitation by middlemen, rise in fertilizer prices, rise in labour cash, escalation in put etc lead to a series of suicides. The occurrence of suicides in states of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Kerala and Punjab was severe. In Nellore district, the southern most coastal district of Andhra Pradesh the suicides took place after 1980. The crime rate with mere 6.3 in 1980 and steeply increased to approximately two folds to 11.2 in 2011. It is thought provoking to note that the crime rate is abnormally increasing. The number of suicides in Andhra Pradesh is highest that is 2666 in 2004 and lowest is 1097 in 1997.

1.Introduction

India is an agrarian country with around 60 per cent of its people directly or indirectly depend upon agriculture. Agriculture in India is often attributed as gambling with monsoons because of its almost exclusive dependency on precipitation from monsoons. The failure of these monsoons leading to a series of droughts, lack of remunerative prices to agricultural product, exploitation by Middlemen, rise in fertilizer price, rise in labour cash, rise in the price of seeds, led to suicides in India. Farmers in India became the centre of considerable concern in the 1990s when the journalist P Sainath highlighted the large number of suicides among them. Official reports initially denied the farmer suicides but as more and more information came to light, the government began to accept that farmers in India were under considerable stress. There was much debate since the issue has attained wider attention. On an average more than 17,500 farmers have committed suicide a year between 2002 and 2006, according to experts who have analyzed the statistics provided by the government. Others traced the increase in farmer suicides to the early 1990s. The most suicides occurred in states of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Kerala and Punjab due to the above mention causes. The situation was grim enough to force at least the Maharashtra government to set up a dedicated office to deal with farmers distress. 10 September is declared World Suicides Prevention Day.

2.National Crime Records of India

The national crime records of suicides per 100,000 population is presented in the table and the crimes rates of various states of India have been presented in the Figure 1.

1980	6.3
1990	8.9
2001	10.6
2011	11.2

Table 1

(Suicides per 100,000 population)

The Table 1 shows that the crime rate of mere 6.3 in 1980 and steeply increased to approximately two folds to 11.2 in 2011. It is unfortunate that the suicides of farmers have increased is abnormally. The suicides positions of various states in India during 1995–2010 have been presented in the Table 1.

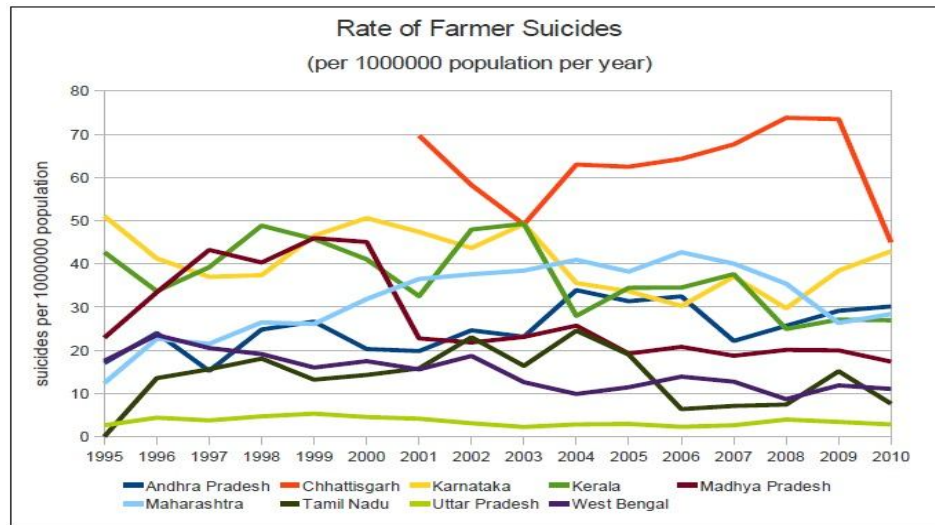


Figure 1: Crimes rates of various states of India

Source: <http://ncrb.nic.in>

YEAR	ANDHRA PRADESH	CHHATTISGARH	KARNATAKA	KERALA	MADHYA PRADESH	MAHARASHTRA	TAMIL NADU	UTTAR PRADESH	WEST BENGAL
1995	1196		2490	1299	1239	1083		385	1296
1996	1706		2011	1025	1809	1981	799	646	1738
1997	1097		1832	1204	2390	1917	932	568	1539
1998	1813		1883	1514	2278	2409	1089	727	1457
1999	1974		2379	1431	2654	2423	804	845	1240
2000	1525		2630	1295	2660	3022	882	735	1377
2001	1509	1452	2505	1035	1372	3536	985	688	1246
2002	1896	1238	2340	1533	1340	3695	1455	525	1518
2003	1800	1066	2678	1583	1445	3836	1052	387	1036
2004	2666	1395	1963	903	1638	4147	1599	496	822
2005	2490	1412	1883	1118	1248	3926	1255	522	965
2006	2607	1483	1720	1124	1375	4453	426	411	1189
2007	1797	1593	2135	1232	1263	4238	484	486	1102
2008	2105	1773	1737	820	1379	3802	512	745	759
2009	2414	1802	2282	896	1395	2872	1060	656	1054
2010	2525	1126	2585	895	1237	3141	541	548	993

Source: <http://ncrb.nic.in/>

Table 2: Suicides Position of Various States of India

The Table 2 shows that among the select states of India, the number of suicide cases in Andhra Pradesh is highest at 2666 in 2004 and lowest at 1097 in 1997. But states like Maharashtra, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh are leading states in suicide cases.

3.Profile Of Nellore District

Nellore District, the Southern most Coastal District of Andhra Pradesh lies between 13-30' and 15-6' of the Northern latitude and 70-5' and 80-15' of the Eastern Longitude and extending over an area of 13076 Sq.Kms, accounting for 4.75% of the total area of the state. It is bounded on the north by Prakasam District on the East by Bay of Bengal on the South by Chittoor District and Chengalpattu District of Tamilanadu and on the West by Veligonda Hills which separate it from Kadapa District.

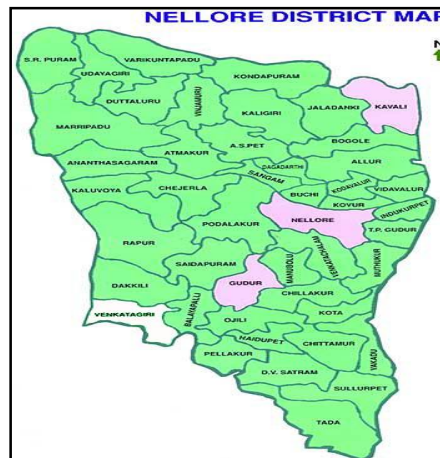


Figure 2

Administratively the District is divided into 46 Mandals, covering three Revenue Divisions with Head Quarters at Nellore, Gudur and Kavali. There are three Municipalities namely Nellore, Gudur and Kavali and in addition there are two Census Towns, that is Kovur and Venkatagiri. The district is broadly divided in to two natural divisions from North to South. The eastern Half of the District adjoins coastal belt is fairly fertile and the western half of the district has low elevation towards west with large track of low shrub jungles diversified with rocky hill stony plains. The Pennar and Swarnamukhi are the principal rivers, besides the streams like Kandaleru and Boggeru.

4.Climate And Rainfall

The climate of Nellore town is generally dry and salubrious. April and May are the hottest months and the hot winds generally last till the end of the June. As the Bay of Bengal is at a distance of 15 miles from the city, the sea breeze renders the climate of

the city moderate both in winter and in summer. The hottest day falls in May with some shift to June during some years. The coolest day falls between the months of December and February. The southwest Monsoon is not very important for this town. Winds are from west and North – West during this season. This town and region depends mainly on the North – East monsoon. The North – East monsoon occurs along the East Coast of India during the month of October and continues till December. This period gives about 60% annual rainfall. The Normal Rainfall of the District is 1080 mm. During the year 2010-11 the actual Rainfall received was 1080 mm.

5.Land Use

The total Geographical area of the District is 13.08 lakh Hectares. Of this 20.09% is forest area. The rest is distributed among Barren and Uncultivable Land (10.56%) and Land put into Non Agricultural uses (18.68%). The net area sown forms 25.96% while cultivable waste and fallow (current and old) lands Constitute 17.75%.

6.Minerals

The District is endowed with variety of major and minor Minerals. They are Mica, Silica etc.,

7.Demographic Characteristics

As per 2011 census the total population of the district is 29,66,082 including 14,93,254 males and 14,72,828 females. The rural population is 24.69 lakhs and Urban population is 5.99 lakhs. The population of females per 1000 males is 984.

8.Literacy

The total literacy population in the District is 15.23 lakhs covering 65.08% of the total population in the District. Out of which male literacy is 8.67 lakhs covering 73.67% and female literacy is 6.56 lakhs covering 56.38%.

9.Coastline

The District has a coastal line of 169 Kms covering 12 mandals. There are 93 coastal fishermen habitations having 82,500 population out of which 16,300 are active fishermen. The estimated marine landings in the District, are 54941 mts. There is a

Pulicat Lake which is the 2nd biggest Brackish Water Lake in the country with an area of 468 Sq.Kms. The lake accounts for annual production of 6500 Mts. of Fishery wealth providing livelihood to 11000 Fishermen covering 20 Kuppams around the lake.

10.Results And Discussion

The district has both economically and socially developed but is famous for suicides owing to several reasons. The present paper has considered the study period of 2004-2009. The details of suicide deaths have been elicited and presented in the Table 2.

Sl. No.	Name	Caste	Village	Mandal	Date of Death	Mode of Death	Rate of Remuneration	Reasons for Death
1	Chinta. Venkateswara Reddy S/o. Venkataramana Reddy	OC	Bhimavaram	Naidupet	22/05/2004	Pesticide	1.50 lakhs	Consumed poison due to not in a position to liquidated debts of Rs.2 lakhs.
2	Eelum. Tirupal Reddy S/o. Narasa Reddy	OC	Purandhara Puram H/o.Kattubadipalem	Buchireddy Palem	03/06/2004	Crop Failure Pesticide	1.50 lakhs	Owning to crop failures, the debt maintained to maximum and came to a decision that he can't seed debts on entire his life.
3	Koneti. Ramachandraiah S/o. Lakshmaiah	BC	Mungaladoruvu	T.P. Gudur	07/06/2004	High Inter Debts Poison	1.50 lakhs	Due to irreparable losses went into debt trap and could not come out and hence consumed poison.
4	Chelika Pitchaiah S/o. Masthanaiah	SC	Vasili	Atmakur	14/06/2004	Debts Pesticide	1.50 lakhs	Due to low yield and no minimum price for produce decided to die and consumed endrine.
5	Duvvuru. Rajendra Prasadh Reddy S/o. Subbarami Reddy	OC	Chintavaram	Chillakur	23/06/2004	Crop Failure Hanging	1.50 lakhs	Put high expenditure on agriculture and could not get due returns and became bankrupt and hanged.
6	Rangineni. Subbarayudu S/o. Vengaiiah	BC	Velupulagunta	A.S.Pet	28/06/2004	Pesticide Consumption	1.50 lakhs	Used optimum pesticides on cotton crop and could not get good yield and hence went into debt trap and died.
7	Guduru. Anjaiiah S/o. Venkaiah	SC	Pidurupalem	Manubolu	03/07/2004	Pesticide	1.50 lakhs	Grow Paddy with high expenditure but could not get proper yield. Hence had high debts pesticide and died
8	Singamaneni. Rajaiah S/o. Narasaiah	BC	Cheepinapi	Kaluvoya	16/08/2004	Pesticide	1.50 lakhs	Took loan from banks for agriculture purpose but could not get minimum yield and price, so consumed pesticide.

Sl. No.	Name	Caste	Village	Mandal	Date of Death	Mode of Death	Rate of Remuneration	Reasons for Death
9	Ande. Venkateswarlu S/o. Peda Malakondaiah	BC	Brahmeswaram	Duttalur	06/09/2004	Set Ablaze	1.50 lakhs	Due to heavy loss of crops and there by debts set ablaze.
10	Talluru. Venkatasubbaiah S/o. Subba Naidu	OC	Balayapalli	Balayapalli	13/09/2004	Heart Attack	1.50 lakhs	He got dug borewells but could not yield water thus crops dried and hence be died.
11	Swarna. Rama Krishnaiah S/o. Subba Naidu	OC	Paderu	Chejarla	15/09/2004	Pesticide	1.50 lakhs	Excessive debts due to series of crops loss and increased size of debt beyond liquidation.
12	Gudur. Subba Reddy S/o. Venka Reddy	OC	Bommavaram Agraharam	Anantha Sagaram	22/09/2004	Pesticide	1.50 lakhs	Crop failures due to non-availability of water and debt increased and hence consumed pesticides.
13	Vakiri. Guru Prasadh S/o. Ramanaiah	SC	Dugaraja Patnam	Vakadu	03/10/2004	Poison	1.50 lakhs	Took lot of land on lease for agriculture but invain due to low yield and limited returns.
14	Kanneboina. Mallikarjuna S/o. Subramanyam	BC	Kattuvapalli	Doravari Sathram	21/10/2004	Poison	1.50 lakhs	Dug bore wells but could not yield water and thus crops failure and hence died of poison consumption.
15	Veeramallu. Krishna S/o. Mahalakshmiiah	BC	Pagadalapalli	Gudur	30/03/2005	Fell Under Rail	1.50 lakhs	Crop failure due to non-availability of water debt increased hence fell under rail.
16	Ustulamuri. Masthanaiah S/o. Venkaiah	BC	Kanuparthi	Podalakur	10/04/2005	Dip in well with weight	1.50 lakhs	Due to bet trap died by dipping in the west.
17	Nalavandla. Bhaskar Reddy, S/o. Venkata Narasa Reddy	OC	Pokurupalli	Rapur	14/04/2005	Pesticide	1.50 lakhs	Lemon crops failure due to blights.
18	Sannareddy. Srinivasulu Reddy S/o. Subbarami Reddy	OC	Eswarawaka	Chittampur	23/04/2005	Hanging	1.50 lakhs	Excessive debts due to crop failure.

Sl. No.	Name	Caste	Village	Mandal	Date of Death	Mode of Death	Rate of Remuneration	Reasons for Death
19	Pamuru. Nagaraju S/o. Ramanaiah	BC	Boddevolu	Manubolu	08/05/2005	Pesticide	1.50 lakhs	Dug bore well but no water.
20	Goddeti. Penchala Reddy S/o. Chinapencala Reddy	OC	Boggulavri Kandriga	Chejarla	24/05/2005	Poison	1.50 lakhs	Took finance from money lenders on high interest rate.
21	Podamekala. Bala Ankaiah S/o. Venkaiah	BC	Chunchulur	Marripadu	07/03/2006	Poison	1.50 lakhs	Owing to continuous droughts, the debts mounted beyond pay.
22	Korrakuti. Venkata Krishnaiah S/o. Penchalaiah	OC	Reddyvari Kandriga H/o. Pelleru	Chejarla	19/02/2007	Pesticide	1.50 lakhs	Lemon crops failure and excessive loss. Hence, consumed poison and dead.
23	Sannapu Reddy. Konda Reddy S/o. Konda Reddy	OC	Chepurallapalli	Ananthasagaram	18/03/2007	Hanging	1.50 lakhs	Owing to severe droughts and they by heavy losses, debt increased beyond pay and hence died.
24	Muddaluru. Venkateswarlu S/o. Krishnaiah	BC	Revuru	Ananthasagaram	20/06/2008	Pesticide	1.50 lakhs	The failure of sun flower crop died by consuming pesticide.
25	Bhogyam. Mallem Kondaiah S/o. Pedda Kondaiah	BC	Kaluvoya	Kaluvoya	11/07/2008	Pesticide	1.50 lakhs	Heavy flood caused total crop loss and hence died of consumers pesticide.
26	Maddireddy. Patabhi Rami Reddy S/o. Gurava Reddy	OC	Kamireddy Padu	Ananthasagaram	31/03/2009	Heart Attack	1.50 lakhs	Crops failure caused heavy debts of beyond pay and hence died heart attack.
27	Renangi. Narayana S/o. Penchalaiah	BC	Revuru	Ananthasagaram	18/06/2009	Pesticide	1.50 lakhs	The cotton and ground nut crops totally failed and caused heavy loss and hence could not tolerate and died.
28	Uppu. Prasadh S/o. Janaki Ramaiah	BC	Mannur	Balayapalli	18/08/2009	Hanging	1.50 lakhs	Owing to inadequacy of water to meet the water demand of crops, fell into heavy debts which made to die.

Table 2: Details of Suicidal Deaths of Farmers in Nellore District

The Table 2 shows that the reasons for the suicide including high debts owing to crop failures, the debt mounted to maximum, irreparable losses in finance and agriculture, due to low yield and no minimum price for produce, putting high expenditure on agriculture and could not get due returns and became bankrupt, Used optimum pesticides on cotton crop and could not get good yield, Grow Paddy with high expenditure but could not get proper yield, Took loan from banks for agriculture purpose but could not get minimum yield and remunerative price, due to heavy loss of crops, excessive debts due to series of failure of crops and increased size of debt beyond liquidation, Crop failures due to non-availability of water and debt increased, took lot of land on lease for agriculture but in vain due to low yield and limited returns, dug bore wells but could not yield water and thus crops failure, crop failure due to non-availability of water and debt increased, Took finance from money lenders on high interest rate, Owing to continuous droughts, the debts mounted beyond pay. Lemon crops failure and excessive loss. The failure of sunflower crop, heavy flood caused total loss of crop, crops failure caused heavy debts beyond the capacity of the farmer to pay, cotton and groundnut crops totally failed and caused heavy loss and owing to inadequacy of water to meet the water demand of crops, fell into heavy debts which compelled the farmer to take the extreme step of ending his life leaving behind the family in distress.

11. Year-Month wise Farmers' Suicides in Nellore District

The Year-Month wise Farmers Suicides Reported as on 30-06-2011 have been presented in the Table 3.

Name of the Month	Name of the District : Sri Potti Sriramulu Nellore District							Total
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	
January	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
February	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
March	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	4
April	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	3
May	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	3
June	5	0	0	0	1	1	0	7
July	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	2
August	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	2
September	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
October	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
November	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
December	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	14	6	1	2	2	3	0	28

Table 3: Farmers Suicides (2004 – 2010)

The table 3 shows that there are 28 suicide cases. Among them majority committed suicide in the month of June, followed by March and September.

12. Conclusion

India is an agrarian country with around 60% of its people directly or indirectly depend upon agriculture. Agriculture in India is often attributed as *gambling with monsoons* because of its almost exclusive dependency on precipitation from monsoons. The failure of these monsoons leading to a series of droughts, lack of better prices, exploitation by Middlemen, all of which have led to a series of suicides committed by farmers across India. The crime rate of mere 6.3 in 1980 and steeply increased to approximately two folds to 11.2 in 2011. It is unfortunate that the farmers, who feeds millings of people committed suicide due to lack of concern by the government. The number of suicide cases in Andhra Pradesh is highest at 2666 in 2004 and lowest at 1097 in 1997. The cause of suicides by farmers including high debts owing to crop failures, the debt mounted to maximum, irreparable losses in finance and agriculture, due to low yield

and no minimum price for produce, putting high expenditure on agriculture and could not get due returns and became bankrupt. There are 28 suicide cases among them majority farmers committed suicide in the month of June, followed by March and September. Hence it is suggested to give loans to the farmers on nominal interest and compensation in case of crop failures.

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