



E-ISSN: 2320-7078

P-ISSN: 2349-6800

www.entomoljournal.com

JEZS 2020; 8(6): 659-662

© 2020 JEZS

Received: 21-09-2020

Accepted: 24-10-2020

Manjuprakash

PhD Scholar, Department of
Agricultural Extension, UAS,
GKVK, Bangalore, Karnataka,
India

V Govinda Gowda

Associate Professor, College of
Agriculture, ChamaraJanagar,
UAS, GKVK, Bangalore,
Karnataka, India

Social, economic and psychological consequences of farmer suicides on their family in Mandya and Haveri districts of Karnataka

Manjuprakash and V Govinda Gowda

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.22271/j.ento.2020.v8.i6i.7922>

Abstract

Farmer suicides are seen all along the length and breadth of the country for various reasons, it is difficult for farm family to sustain after the death of the breadwinning farmer. In this regard the current study was undertaken to delineate the consequences of farmer suicides on their family in Mandya and Haveri districts of Karnataka during 2019-2020. A total of 60 respondents were selected by using purposive sampling technique with a representation 30 respondents from each district. The collected data was scored and analysed using frequency and percentage. The consequences were categorised into social, economic and psychological domains. The results revealed that, among social consequences, a good majority (83.33 %) of the wives of the suicided farmer became self-reliant followed by slightly less than three-fourth (73.33 %) of them expressed that, they shouldered sudden and huge responsibilities. Equal proportion (68.33 %) of the children left schooling after the suicidal death of the father and the family was disconnected from the relatives. Two-third (66.66 %) of the families felt that their reputation in the society started diminishing after the suicide incident in the family. Among the economic domain, 60.00 per cent of the families expressed that their outstanding debt increased and 26.66 per cent of them sold their property. 61.66 per cent of the respondent family members felt sense of hopelessness and (51.66 %) of them developed sense of insecurity and 13.33 per cent of the family members died after suicide incident in the family were the psychological consequences.

Keywords: consequences, economic, psychological and social and suicide

Introduction

India being the agrarian country with around 65.00 per cent of the population residing in the rural background relying upon agriculture for their livelihood. The life of a farmer goes with the nature as he is involved in agricultural activities. Agriculture mainly depends on climatic factors such as moisture, temperature and other natural factors responsible for the growth and its establishment. Recently the world is experiencing the global warming and monsoon is gambling with agriculture, as a result of which the farmers obtain poor or low productivity thereby poor income to the farm family. Along with the farming hassles they have to bear the personal, psychological, economic and the family issues. If, one or more of these factors go beyond the control of farmer and their persistence for a longer period of time will lead to the complications in turn leading to the adverse effect on the psychological and economic conditions. This will have imbalance on the psychological behavior of the farmer and ultimately pushes him to think of ending his or her life at a particular point of time.

The Indian peasantry, the largest body of surviving small farmers in the world, today faces a crisis of extinction ^[1]. The suicidal tendency among the farming community owes its origin from Telangana region of Andhra Pradesh and also the Vidharbha region of Maharashtra since the end of 1990. In India, it is estimated that nearly 16,000 farmers die by suicide every year, and at rates far above those of the general population ^[2].

The act of suicide is the ultimate and irreversible solution to the temporary problems, but the magnitude of its effect on the family is enormous. This will lead to the abnormalities in the family, befuddling the lifestyle. Although suicide is a deeply personal and individual act: it leads to severe personal, social and economic consequences among the family members ^[3]. Conceptually, a consequence could be operationally defined as the result or effect of an action. In the present study farmers' suicide consequences defined as the changes that occurred in the family after suicidal death of breadwinning farmer in due course of time ^[4].

Corresponding Author:**Manjuprakash**

PhD Scholar, Department of
Agricultural Extension, UAS,
GKVK, Bangalore, Karnataka,
India

The incident of the suicide in the family will have various effects on the members of the family. With this backdrop, an effort was made to document the consequences on the affected family.

Objective of the study

- To delineate the social, economic and psychological consequences on the affected family

Materials and methods

The current study was under taken to delineate the consequences of farmer suicide on their family. The consequences were sub divided into social, economic and psychological domains.

Selection of the districts

Among the 30 districts in Karnataka, Mandya and Haveri

Result and Discussion

Table 1: Distribution of affected family based on social consequences of farmer suicides in Mandya and Haveri districts (n=60)

Sl. No.	Statements	Mandya (n=30)		Haveri (n=30)		Overall (n=60)	
		F	%	F	%	F	%
I	Consequences on family						
1.	Fall in the social reputation after the suicide of the bread winning member of the family	19	63.33	21	70.00	40	66.66
2.	Disconnect with the relatives	18	60.00	23	76.66	41	68.33
3.	Dispute among the family members	16	53.33	18	60.00	34	56.66
	Consequences on wife						
4.	Sudden huge responsibility on the wife of the suicided farmer	22	73.33	22	73.33	44	73.33
5.	Encouraged for widow remarriage	03	10.00	03	10.00	6	10.00
6.	Wife sent back to her parent's house	11	36.66	9	30.00	20	33.33
7.	Became self-reliant	24	80.00	26	86.66	50	83.33
	Consequences on children						
8.	Children of the affected farmer discontinued education	18	60.00	23	76.66	41	68.33
9.	Children of the suicided farmer were provided with special opportunity by the government to continue schooling	8	26.66	6	20.00	14	23.33
10.	Children had to work as child labour	10	33.33	15	50.00	25	41.66
11.	Barriers or delay in the children marriage	11	36.66	16	53.33	27	45.00
	Consequences on parents						
13.	Parents of the affected farmer were neglected in health aspects	13	43.33	11	36.66	24	40.00
14.	Death of the either of the parent after the suicide of the farmer	5	16.66	11	36.66	16	26.66
15.	New illness among the parents due to death of the farmer	13	43.33	10	33.33	23	38.33

It could be observed from the table 1 that, about two-third (63.33 %) of Mandya and majority (70.00 %) of the Haveri districts affected families expressed that the fall in the social reputation after the suicide of the bread winning member of the family was the major social consequences on the family and the overall it was expressed by exactly two-third (66.66 %) of the affected families in the study area. This was because of the reason that, the suicide is considered as crime and after the suicide of the breadwinning farmer it would be difficult for the family members to meet the requirements of the family and thus there might be fall in the reputation of the family in the society hence the family members felt that there was fall in the social reputation. This was followed by disconnect with the relatives (60.00 %) and slightly more than three-fourth (76.66 %) among the Mandya and Haveri district affected family respondents respectively, the same was expressed by 68.33 per cent by the overall respondents, this might be because of the reason that, the family would be completely or partially dependent on the suicided farmer and immediately after the suicidal incident the relatives might think that the

district were selected purposively as they have witnessed highest number of farmer suicides during 2015-2018 in Karnataka.

A total of 60 respondents were selected based on the suicidal death was reported in the family with a representation of 30 respondents selected from two districts namely Mandya and Haveri of Karnataka with a due care has been taken that the each taluk was covered.

The basic information related to the number of suicides occurred between 2015 and 2019 was collected from the office of the Commissioner, Karnataka State Department of Agriculture, Bangalore, Government of Karnataka.

Finally the primary data was collected from suicided farmer families. By using pre-tested, and well-structured interviewed schedule and the responses were recorded. The data tabulated and analyzed using simple statistical tools such as frequency and percentage.

burden of taking care of the affected family might be vested with them, further the sustenance of the relatives family also was difficult as they were also involved in the agriculture and allied activities. Dispute among the family members was observed among more than half (53.33 %) and 60.00 per cent of the Mandya and Haveri district affected family respondents respectively and the same consequences on the overall respondent families was among 56.66 per cent, this might be because of the reason that, the bad habits that the farmer had cultivated over a period of time and other disputes were due to disputes for the sharing of the ancestral property.

In the same table it could also be seen that, sudden huge responsibility on the wife of the suicided farmer was also observed among the same proportion (73.33 %) of respondents in both Mandya and Haveri districts, this might be because of the reason that the children of the affected family were small enough to take the responsibility and also the parents of the suicided farmer were also of old age. The wife of the affected became self-reliant was seen among the majority (86.66 %) and (80.00 %) of the respondents among

Haveri and Mandya districts respectively and among overall respondents it was observed among 83.33 per cent of the respondents, this might be because of the reason that, the wife of the affected did not want to depend on others and lead independent life. Among 36.66 per cent and 30.00 per cent respondents in Mandya and Haveri district respectively wife was sent back to her parent's house and among the overall respondents it was observed among one-third (33.33 %) of the respondents, it was because of the reason that, the children of the affected family were too small and wife of the affected could not manage all alone independently and also conflicts among wife and the parents of the suicided farmer, above all there was support from her parents and brothers so she went back to her parents' house. Further it was also observed that, among the small proportion (10.00 %) in both Mandya and Haveri districts the widow were encouraged for re-marriage, however it was also noticed that, none of them re-married.

In the current study the consequences on the children was also documented and it was found that, 60.00 per cent and 76.66 per cent of the children in Mandya and Haveri districts respectively discontinued their education after the death of their father, among the overall respondents it was seen among 68.33 per cent of the children. The results are in accordance with the results of Kale *et al.* [4], this was due to the reason that, the family was unable to give importance to the study and the financial crisis was also a reason. Barriers or delay in the children marriage was seen among slightly more than one-third (36.66 %) and slightly more than half (53.33 %) of the respondent families in Mandya and Haveri districts respectively, it was experienced by less than half (45.00 %) of the overall respondents and the was study conducted by Khokle [5], and he reported that 0.50 per cent of the

respondents children marriage was delayed. This was due to the financial crisis that persisted after the suicidal death of the farmer. Among the affected families children worked as child laborers in exactly one-third (33.33 %) and exactly half (50.00 %) of the respondents in Mandya and Haveri district respectively and for the pooled data it was, 41.66 per cent. of the respondent families. Slightly more than one-fourth (26.66 %) and 20.00 per cent of the children in Mandya and Haveri districts made use of the education facilities given by the government and in total 23.33 per cent of the children made use of this facility.

It could also be seen from the table 1 that, the consequences on the parents of the affected. Parents of the affected farmer were neglected in health aspects was seen among (43.33 %) and (36.66 %) of the respondents in Mandya and Haveri districts respectively and in total it was seen among 40.00 per cent of the affected families, this might be because of the reason that, in few cases it was observed that, the son was not married and there was no one to take care of the old parents, in other cases due to poverty it was not possible to continue the treatment. Further, the death of the either of the parent (16.66 %) and (36.66 %) was observed in Mandya and Haveri districts respectively in overall it was seen among the 26.66 per cent of the families. New illness among the parents due to death of the farmer was witnessed among less than half (43.33 %) and 38.33 per cent among Mandya and Haveri respondents respectively and in total new illness was observed among 38.33 per cent of the affected families. This might be because of the reason that, the emotional attachment that the parents had with their son and in thinking of his demise for the long period of time they might have developed the disease and in turn that might have resulted in the death.

Table 2: Distribution of affected family based on economic consequences of farmer suicide in Mandya and Haveri districts (n=60)

Sl. No.	Statements	Mandya (n=30)		Haveri (n=30)		Overall (n=60)	
		F	%	F	%	F	%
1.	Reduced income of the family from agriculture	16	53.34	20	66.66	36	60.00
2.	Increase in the outstanding debt of the family	18	60.00	18	60.00	36	60.00
3.	The loan taken by the family before suicidal death of the farmer was repaid	7	23.33	8	26.66	15	25.00
4.	The compensation amount was used for employment generation activities	6	20.00	8	26.66	14	23.33
5.	Property was sold	7	23.33	9	30.00	16	26.66

Table 2 denotes the distribution of the affected families based on the economic consequences of farmer suicides in Mandya and Haveri districts. It was noticed that, there was reduced income of the family from agriculture in than half (53.34 %) and two-third (66.66 %) of the affected families in Mandya and Haveri districts respectively. While, in total it was observed among 60.00 per cent of the respondents. This was because of the reason that there were no one to take up the farm related activities after the suicide of the farmer. Increase in the outstanding debt was seen among exactly same proportion (60.00 %) of the respondents in both Mandya and Haveri districts and this result was found in the study of Khokle [5]. This was because to sustain the family immediately after the death of the breadwinning farmer and some of them took loan for children education and for the marriage. Loan taken by the family before the suicidal death of the farmer was repaid by almost same proportion of the respondents (23.33 %) and (26.66 %) in Mandya and Haveri districts

respectively and it could be noted that 25.00 per cent of the respondent families in both the districts repaid the loan taken, as the affected family received the compensation of rupees five lakhs from the Government of Karnataka, hence they repaid the loan. The compensation amount was used for employment generation activities by 20.00 per cent of the respondents in Mandya district and 26.66 per cent of the respondents in Haveri district and the same was seen among 23.33 per cent of the respondents from both the districts, this was due to sustain the family other than the income from the agriculture, they utilized the compensation amount in dairy, petty shops and other small business. The property was sold among the 23.33 per cent of the respondents in Mandya and 30.00 per cent in Haveri district farm families further it could be seen that, among less than one-fourth (26.66 %) of the overall respondents also. The similar findings were quoted by Rajani *et al.*, [6].

Table 3: Distribution of affected family based on psychological consequences of farmer suicide in Mandya and Haveri districts (n=60)

Sl. No.	Statements	Mandya (n=30)		Haveri (n=30)		Overall (n=60)	
		F	%	F	%	F	%
1.	Family members went in to depression	14	46.66	18	60.00	32	53.33
2.	Development of sense of hopelessness	17	56.66	20	66.66	37	61.66
3.	Developed sense of insecurity among the family members	17	56.66	14	46.66	31	51.66
4.	Death of another family member after the suicide	3	10.00	5	16.66	8	13.33
5.	Developed anxiety and stress which led to mental insecurity	14	46.66	17	56.66	31	51.66
6.	Illness among family member after the death of the breadwinning farmer	9	30.00	12	40.00	21	35.00

Table 3 reveals that, the psychological consequences of farmer suicides among family members less than half (46.66 %) of the respondents in Mandya and 60.00 per cent of the respondents in Haveri district went into depression. In total among more than half (53.33%) of the respondents from both the districts went into depression. More than half (56.66 %) and two-third (66.66 %) of the respondents in Mandya and Haveri respectively developed sense of hopelessness and from both the districts it was among 61.66 per cent of the respondents. Insecurity feeling was developed among 56.66 per cent and 46.66 per cent of the respondents in Mandya and Haveri district respectively and it was slightly more than half (51.66 %) of the respondents in total of the respondents and this result is in accordance with the results of Manjunatha and Ramappa [7]. This might be because of the reason that, the sudden loss of the head of the family member upon whom they dependent on and in turn that might have made them to think of insecurity in the life. It was also observed that there was death of another family member after the suicide of the breadwinning farmer in the family among 10.00 per cent and 16.66 per cent of the respondents in Mandya and Haveri district respectively and from both the district it was 13.33 per cent, these results were in line with the results of Kale [8]. Almost half (46.66 %) and (56.66 %) of the respondents in Mandya and Haveri districts developed anxiety and stress which led to mental instability and in total it was seen among 51.66 per cent of the respondents. Illness among family member after the death of the breadwinning farmer was documented among 30.00 per cent and 40.00 per cent of the respondents respectively in Mandya and Haveri district and it was 35.00 per cent in both the districts. This might be because of the reason that, the psychological imbalances, negative thoughts that haunt the family members after the suicidal death of the head of the family member. Both wives experienced symptoms of depression and anxiety after the farmer died by suicide was quoted by Kimberly *et al.* [9].

Conclusion

Suicide is not the end solution to the temporary problems, the farmers should have wider knowledge on the resource available for them in respect of agriculture and allied activities and make use of them. The incident of suicide will have adverse effects on the family members in different magnitude in various aspects.

From the study it was observed that, majority of the families' experienced negative consequences after the suicidal death of the breadwinning farmer in the family. Hence, an effort to be made by the government as well as Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) to buffer the stress during the crisis by proper counselling the farmer and his family members. The provision should be made for the children of the affected farmer in respect of financial support needed for higher studies. Proper measures needs to be for welfare of the old aged parents, in aspects of their health and security. In order

to sustain the family expenses and to lead a respectful life in the society the member of the family should be provided with employment opportunity. In order to reduce the financial burden the loan need to be waived off for the affected farmer family.

References

1. Vandana Shiva, Kunwar Jalees. Farmers Suicides in India. *R. foundation Sci.*, Tech. Ecology A-60, Hauz Khas, New Delhi 2006.
2. Dominic Merriott. Factors associated with the farmer suicide crisis in India *J Epidemiology and Global Health* 2016;6:217-227.
3. Jacob DG. Assessment and assignment of suicide risk resource materials. <http://www.thrani.com/pdf/suic1.pdt>. 2006.
4. Kale NM, Mankar DM, Wankhade PP. Consequences of Farmers Suicide and Suggestions Perceived from Victim's Households to Prevent Suicides in Vidarbha Region, *Global Journal of Science Frontier Research: D Agriculture and Veterinary* 2014, 14(10).
5. Khokle Ramdas Baliram, Socio-Economic, Psychological and Situational Causes of Farmers Suicides in Jalna District. M.Sc. Thesis (Unpub.), Vasantrao Naik Marathwada Krushi Vidyapeeth Parbhani 2018, 431-402.
6. Rajani B, Sreenivasa Rao I, Sreenivasulu M, Suneetha Devi KB. Farmer Suicides: Consequences and Coping Mechanism in the Deceased Families. *International Journal of Current Microbiology and Applied Sciences* 2018;7(8):1560-1565.
7. Manjunatha AV, Ramappa KB. Farmer Suicide an All India Study. Department of agriculture co-operation and Farmer Welfare, Government of India, New Delhi 2017.
8. Kale NM. Socio-economic, psychological and situational causes of suicides of farmers in Vidarbha region. Ph.D. Thesis (Unpub.), Dr. Panjabrao Deshmukh Krishi Vidyapeeth, Akola 2008.
9. Kimberly Link A, Dawn Garrett-Wright, Susan Jones M. The Burden of Farmer Suicide on Surviving Family Members: A Qualitative Study. *Issues in mental health nursing* 2020;41(1):66-72.