



**AN EMPIRICAL STUDY OF
ECONOMIC DISTRESS AMONG SUICIDE VICTIM FARMERS
OF MARATHWADA REGION OF MAHARASHTRA**



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ABSTRACT

Agriculture is the major source of employment and livelihood in Marathwada region of Maharashtra. However, farmers are suffered from economic distress and large numbers of farmers are committing suicide in same region. This paper mainly focuses on socio economic situation of suicide victim farmer households of Marathwada region. An increasing

number of small and marginal operational holdings, rainfed and seasonal nature of agriculture sector have creating many issues in farm sector. The income generated through farming is unable to meeting the consumption expenditure of suicide victim households. A per capita income of more than 59 percent selected suicide victim farmers was

found less than below poverty line and 31 percent had maximum double of below poverty line (BPL). Therefore, large number of farmers had taken loan for meeting the expenses of consumption and large number of farmers committed suicide for permanent outcome from the pressure

of money lenders and bank officials. Therefore, focus of government should be improving standard of living of farmers by providing easy employment opportunities through extension of subsidiary business and cottage industries than immediate relief to victim farmers.

KEYWORDS

farmers' suicide, agriculture, income, below poverty line, indebtedness, distress.
