

FARMERS' SUICIDE IN KARNATAKA: SOCIO-ECONOMIC FACTORS AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS

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ABSTRACT

This sociological study explores the alarming phenomenon of farmers' suicide in Karnataka, a major agricultural state in India. Despite its agricultural significance, Karnataka has witnessed a high incidence of farmer suicides, driven by a combination of economic distress, indebtedness, crop failures, and inadequate institutional support. The study analyzes data from various districts, highlighting the regions most affected and identifying key socio-economic and environmental factors contributing to the crisis. It examines the role of high debt burdens, erratic climatic conditions, and the shortcomings of government interventions in exacerbating the vulnerability of farmers. Furthermore, the study sheds light on the social and psychological impact of continuous financial strain and societal pressures on farmers. The findings underscore the need for comprehensive policy measures, including improved access to credit, efficient implementation of crop insurance schemes, mental health support, and the promotion of sustainable agricultural practices, to address the underlying causes of farmer suicides in Karnataka.

KEYWORDS: *Farmer Suicides, Karnataka, Debt Burden, Crop Failure, Socio-Economic Factors, Climate Change, Institutional Support, Mental Health, Agricultural Crisis, Sociological Study*

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