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MICRO PROJECT REPORT ON

CAUSES AND EFFECTS OF FARMER SUICIDE: A CASE STUDY OF DHARWAD

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2020-2021



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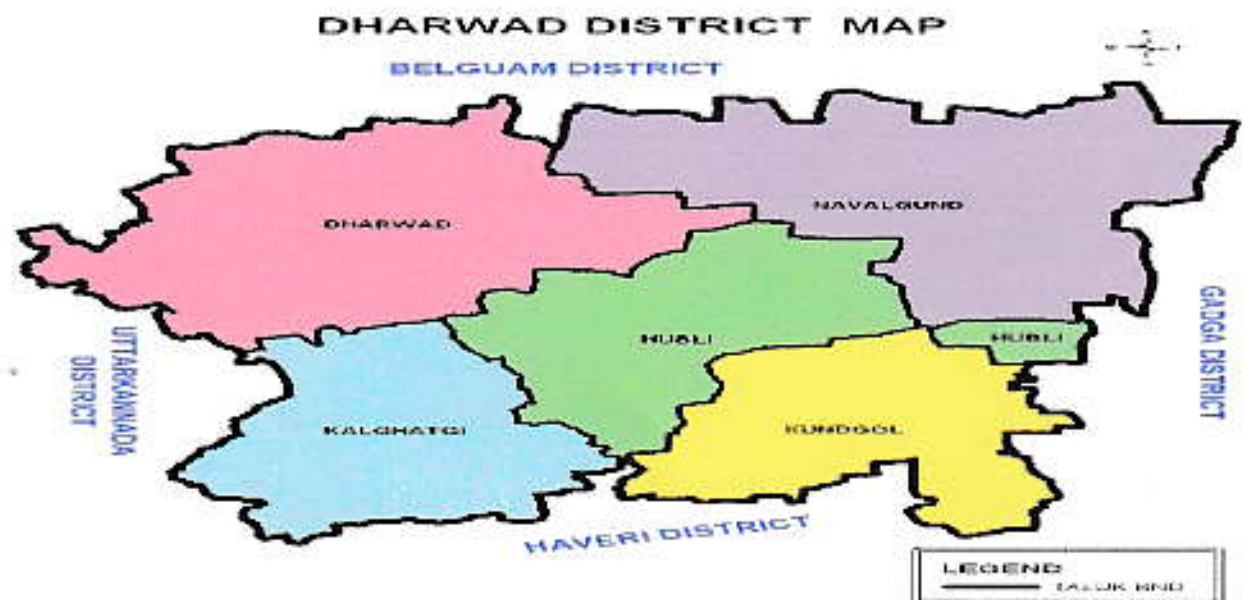
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FARMERS' SUICIDE CAUSES AND EFFECTES: A CASE STUDY OF DHARWAD

INTRODUCTION:

India is an agrarian country with around 59% of its people depending directly or indirectly upon agriculture for their livelihood. The agriculture industry contributes more than 15% to India's GDP. The economic development of a country is possible only if the farmer's community is taken care of on a priority basis. Though farmers feed the nation, their conditions are far from satisfactory. The agrarian crisis has been one of the worst disasters to have hit our country in the last couple of decades. But farmers' suicide in India is worrying. There are a lot of reasons as to why farmer suicides happen in our country. Many social, economic, political, and individual crises have forced them to end their lives. Despite of various programmes initiated by the Central Government to improve the income and social security of farmers, over 12,000 suicides were reported in the agricultural sector every year since 2013. Farmer suicides account for approximately 10% of all suicides in India. Farmer suicide has turned out to be a major socio-economic concern in India.

The present study was under taken to study the causes leading to farmers' suicides in 3 villages (Garag, Amminbhavi, Hebballi) of Dharwad Taluk, and suitable recommendations were made to alleviate the incidence of farmers' suicides.



REVIEW OF LITERATURE:

Kanthi (2014) in his study on economics of agriculture and farmers' suicides in Warangal District in Andhra Pradesh opined that the contributory factors for farmers suicides in Andhra Pradesh is farmers indebtedness, crop loss and failure and risk factor, inputs (seed, fertilizers, pesticides, irrigation, credit) related problems, inadequate institutional finance, failure of agricultural extension system, lack of storage and marketing facilities, lack of remunerative prices and absence of agricultural insurance.

Mohanty (2014) in a study conducted in Amravati and Yavatmal districts stated that crop loss and egoistic factors led to suicidal tendency among small farmers. On the contrary, the suicides of large and medium farmers who belonged to higher castes were attributed mainly to the anomic forces generated by failure in business, trade and politics.

Singh et al., (2014) based on the research in Punjab stated that the level of education, non-farm income, farm size and non-institutional credit were the main factors which affect the level of farmers' indebtedness. It was also found that the farmers face a large number of problems in availing institutional credit which drives them to fall into the debt trap of the crafty and exploitative non-institutional sources of credit.

Macharia (2015) investigated that majority of small and marginal peasants depended on non institutional credit facilities (i.e. moneylenders, micro financiers and traders). He also reported that farmers' suicides take place among the scheduled castes and tribe families who cultivate commercial crops. Low yields, extremely low profits and mounting debts make their life extremely difficult and compelling for the extreme step.

OBJECTIVES:

1. To study the socio-economic profile, cropping pattern and profitability of victim farm households.
2. To explore the causes responsible for farmers' suicides.
3. To recommend the suitable policies to alleviate/reduce the incidence of farmers' suicides.

METHODOLOGY:

Sampling Size: 30 families

DATA COLLECTION

- Primary Data : Survey
- Tools : Questionnaire
- Secondary Data: Articles and Website

Farmer Suicides in 3 villages of Dharwad Taluk(2011-2019)

Year/Village	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	Total
Garag	14	04	01	01	03	01	01	25
Amminbhavi	05	02	01	01	01	03	01	14
Hebballi	03	-	-	-	01	-	-	04
Total	22	06	02	02	05	04	02	43

CAUSES OF FARMER SUCIDE:**I. Social causes of suicide**

1. **Poverty**
2. **Poverty dispute**
 - Partition of land
 - Partition of house
 - Partition of Income
3. **Marriage related issues**
 - Dowry related issues
 - Extra marital issues
 - Divorce
 - Others (Family Trouble)
4. **Family problems**
 - Social functions
 - Daughter's marriage
 - Family conflicts
5. **Illness**
6. **Drug abuse/Alcoholic addition**
7. **Gambling /betting/chit fund**
8. **Fall in social reputation**

II. Farming related causes of suicide:

1. **Failure of crops**
 - Pests and diseases
 - Lack of access to irrigation water
2. **Due to natural calamities**
 - Failure of rainfall /drought
 - Accidental fire
 - Flood and hailstorm
3. **Difficulties in marketing the produce**
4. **Failure of Tube wells**
5. **Disputes between the victim and others**
6. **Expectations of**
 - Higher output
 - Higher prices
 - Loan waiving
 - Institutional credit
 - Non-institutional credit
7. **Lack of extension services and delivery mechanisms**
8. **Delayed payment/payment in installments for the marketed produce**

III. Indebtedness related causes of suicides:

1. **Indebtedness – Institutional and Non- Institutional**
 - Crop loan
 - Farm equipment loan
 - Non-agricultural loan
 - Non-institutional loan
2. **Due to pressure from institutional sources**
3. **Due to pressure from non-institutional sources**

Consequences of Farmer Suicide**I. Family Disturbance:**

- Children of the victims had left the school and went for wage earning.
- Household's dislocation and dissolution (particularly victims' wife.)

- Impediments of marriages of family members.
- Children were sent to live with relatives.

2. Psychological Impact:

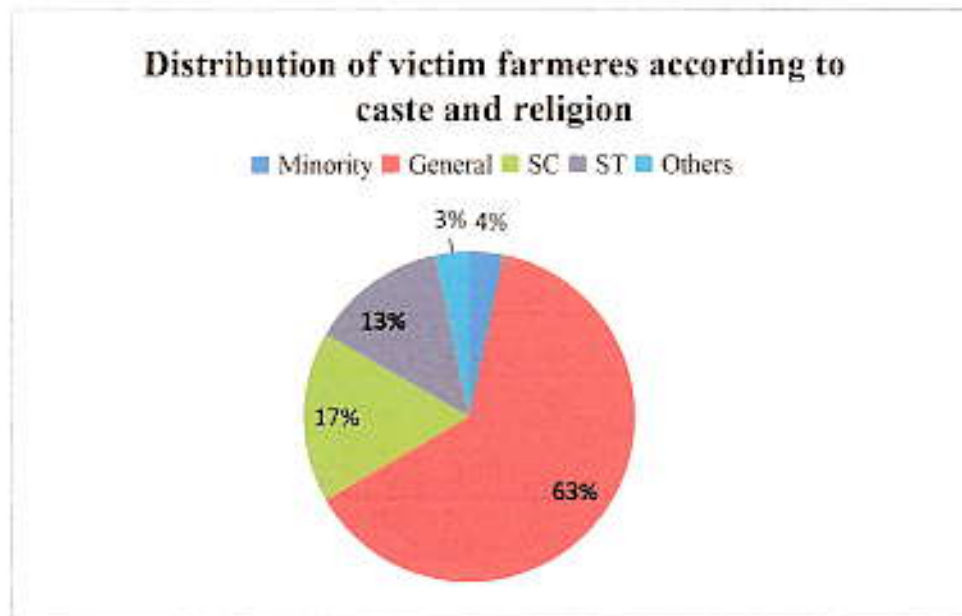
- Develop an anxiety and stress which leads to mental instability.
- Illness of family members.
- Developed a sense of hopelessness.

3. Effect on Working:

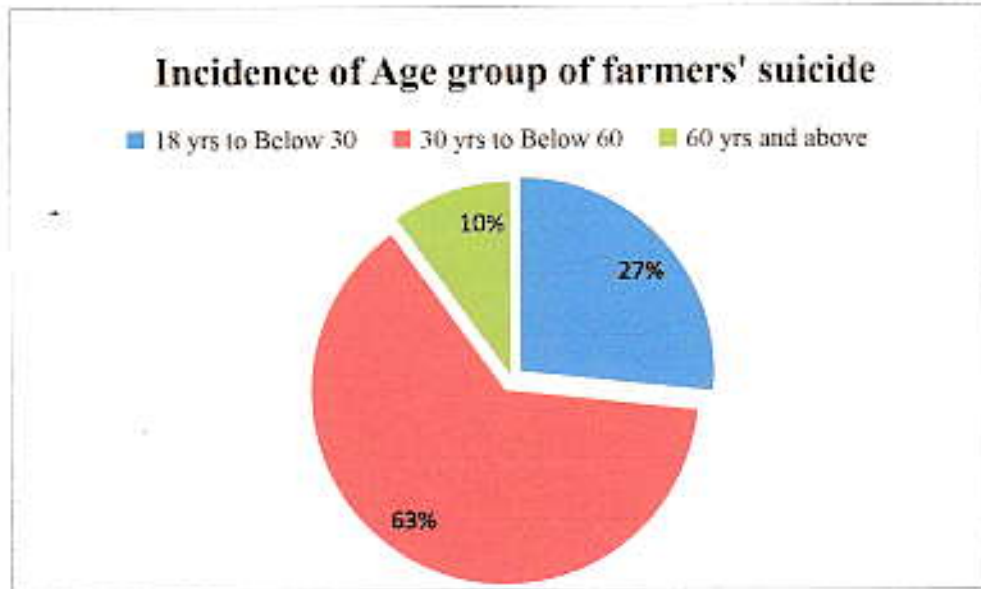
- Lowered the income of family
- Loss of interest in work

EMPIRICAL EVIDENCE:

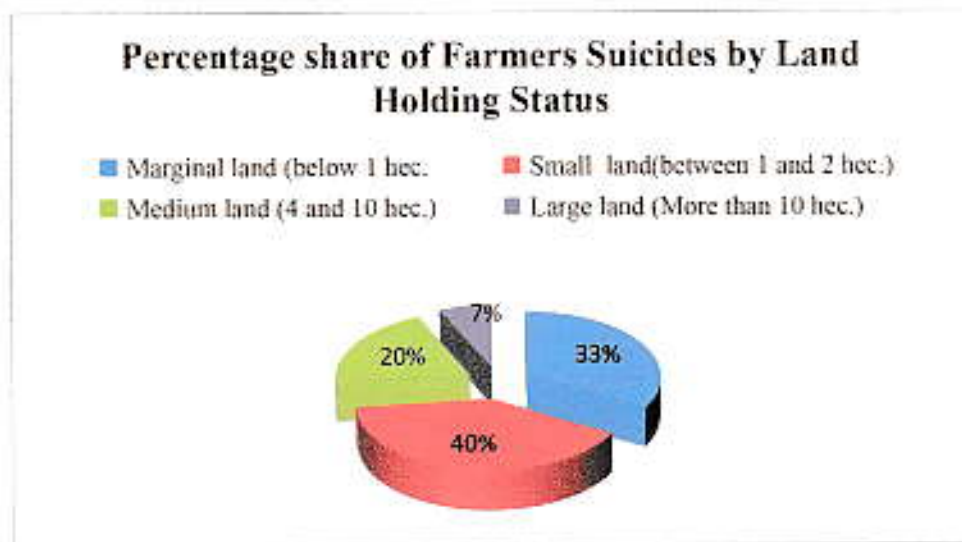
1. Distribution of victim farmers according to caste and religion:



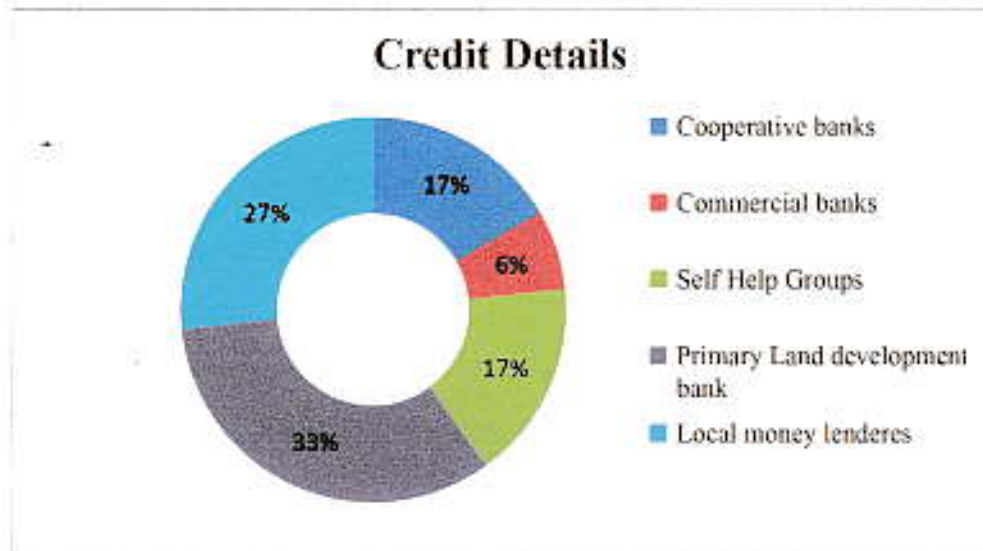
2. Incidence of Age group of farmers' Suicide:



3. Land Holdings:



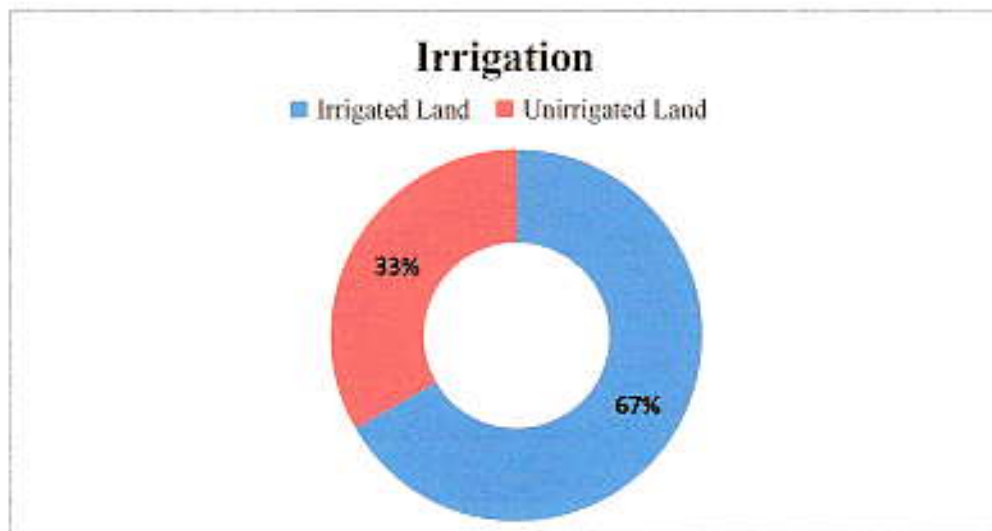
4. Credit Details



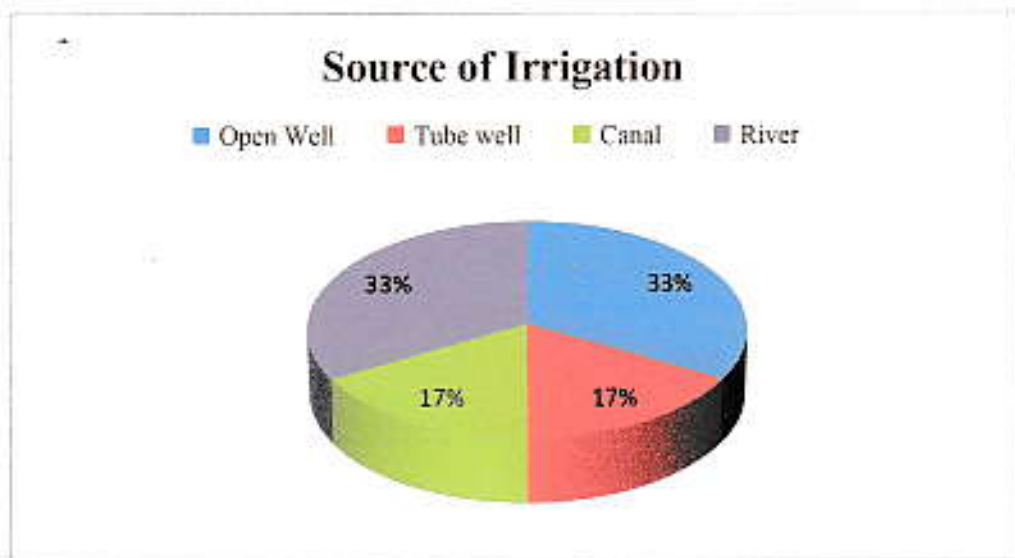
5. Crop Cultivation:

Category	Major Crops
Major Crops	Jowar, Wheat, Maize
Commercial Crops	Ground nut, Onions, and Cotton and Sunflower Chilli, Potato, Onion
Horticultural Crops	Mango, Sapota, Banana, Guava, Coconut and Cashew

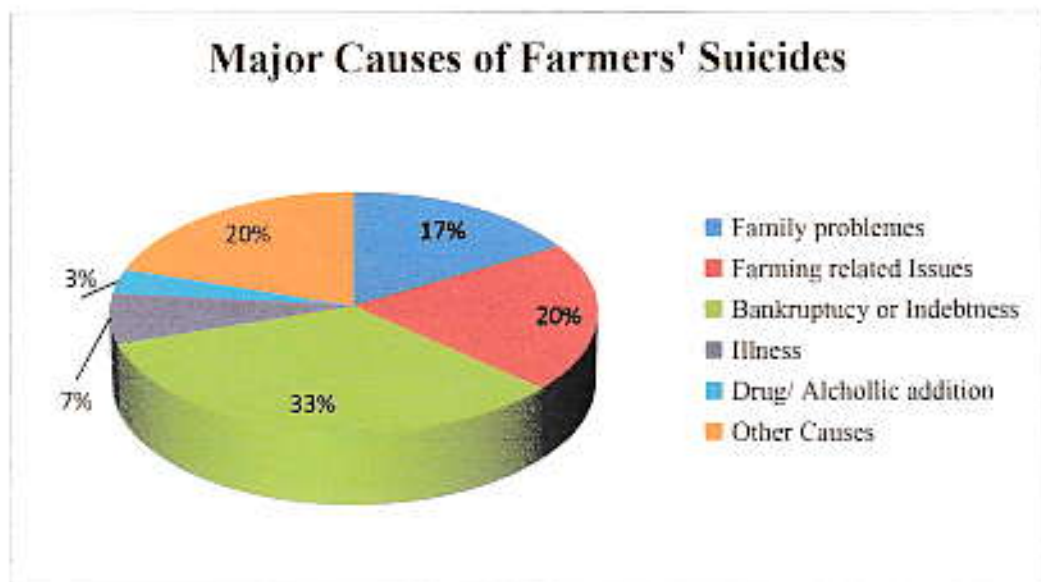
6. Irrigation Land:



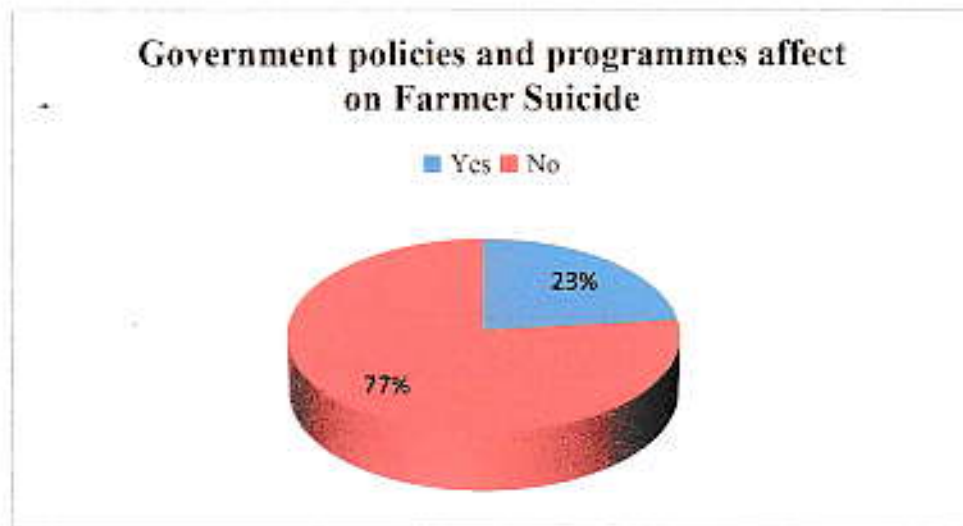
7. Source of Irrigation:



8. Major Causes of Farmers' Suicide:



9. Impact of Government Policies on Farmers' Suicides.



FINDINGS:

- The sample covered victims of all age groups and all categories of farmers in terms of operational holding size. Nearly 63% of the victims were in the age group of 30 to 60 years and 40% belong to small farmers (1 to 2 Hec) category.
- 64% of the victims were in the General category.
- Primary Land Development Bank, commercial bank, Cooperative was the first preference of sample victims for credit.
- Half of the debt was for non-farming purposes like medical, education of children, marriages and housing.
- The decision to commit suicide by the victim cannot be attributed to a single reason. The final action of committing suicide was a combination of several causes which can be grouped mainly as social, farming and debt related.
- Indebtedness and crop failure was the major cause of suicide. Since the crop failed, the victims were worried about the crop loan.

SUGGESTION:

- Regular counseling can help in reducing the suicide rate.
- Crop loan from banks should be increased.
- Changes in farming methods can be implemented.

- Minimum support price has to be extended for more crops which results in increasing the confidence of farmers
- Measures should be taken for the proper supply of water and electricity without interruption.
- An appropriate mechanism should be devised to control the price fluctuation.
- Expenses on marriages and other social functions should be minimized.
- Loan from moneylenders and other informal sources should be included while evaluating indebtedness status.
- Crop loss by an individual farmer due to natural calamities, theft, fire or other reasons should also be considered for crop compensation.
- Stringent measures should be initiated against the traders who sell fake seeds and fertilizers.

CONCLUSION:

In recent years the issue of agrarian distress in different states of India including farmers' suicides has attracted attention of policy makers and researchers. Some studies and reports have highlighted that the implementation of the Prime Ministers Rehabilitation Package for Farmers' suicide prone states is not effective including Karnataka. Therefore, proper implementation of Central and State Government rehabilitation package is very much essential. In addition, to create awareness about the problem of suicide, training should be given to the farmers with the help of agricultural universities and colleges regarding the use of pesticides and fertilizers, scientific farming, better yield and good price for their products.

INTRIEW SCHEDULE**FARMER SUICIDE CAUSES AND EFFECTES: A CASE STUDY OF DHARWAD**

1. In which religion you belong?
 - a. Minority
 - b. General
 - c. SC
 - d. ST
 - e. Others
2. Incidence of Age group of farmer Suicide:
 - a. 18 yrs to below 30
 - b. 30 yrs to below 60
 - c. 60 yrs and above
3. Land Holdings:
 - a. Marginal land (below 1 hec.)
 - b. Small land (between 1 and 2 hec)
 - c. Medium land (4 and 10 hec)
 - d. Large land (more than 10 hec)
4. Which credit Institution provides sufficient amount of loan to farmer?
 - a. Cooperate banks
 - b. Commercial banks
 - c. Self Help groups
 - d. Primary land development bank.
 - e. Local money lenders.
5. Type of crops cultivated by farmer?
 - a. Cereals
 - b. Commercial Crops
 - c. Horticultural Crops
6. Which type of land use to crop cultivation?
 - a. Irrigated Land
 - b. Non irrigated Land
7. Source of Irrigation.
 - a. Open Well
 - b. Tube Well
 - c. Canal
 - d. River