

JOURNAL OF SHIVAJI UNIVERSITY (Humanities & Social Sciences)

(Double blind and peer reviewed)

Volume 53 of 2020/ ISSUE-1 ISSN: 0368-4199

SHIVAJI UNIVERSITY, KOLHAPUR



JOURNAL OF SHIVAJI UNIVERSITY (Humanities and Social Sciences)

Volume 53 of 2020/ ISSUE-2/ISSN: 0368-4199

EDITORIAL BOARD OF THE JOURNAL

Prof. (Dr.) D. T. Shirke

Chairman Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Shivaji University, Kolhapur

Prof. (Dr.) P. S. Patil

Hon'ble Pro- Vice-Chancellor, Shivaji University, Kolhapur

Prof. (Dr.) M. S. Deshmukh

Managing Editor Department of Economics, Shivaji University, Kolhapur

MEMBERS OF THE EDITORIAL BOARD

Prof. (Dr.)Bharati Patil Dean, Faculty of Humanities & Social Sciences, Shivaji University, Kolhapur

Prof. (Dr.) A. M. Gurav Dean, Faculty of Commerce & Management, Shivaji University, Kolhapur

Prof. (Dr.) V. B. Kakade Department of Economics,Shivaji University, Kolhapur

Prof. (Dr.) Jagan Karade Head, Department of Sociology, Shivaji University, Kolhapur

Prof. (Dr.) Rajan Gavas Head, Department of Marathi, Shivaji University, Kolhapur

Prof. (Dr.) C. A. Langare Head, Department of English,Shivaji University, Kolhapur

Prof. (Dr.) P. S. Patankar
Head, Department of Education, Shivaji University, Kolhapur
Dr. Namita Khot
Director, Knowledge Resource Center, Shivaji University, Kolhapur

JOURNAL OF SHIVAJI UNIVERSITY (Humanities & Social Sciences)

(Double blind and peer reviewed) ISSN : 0368-4199





ISSUE - 1 OF 2020

SHIVAJI UNIVERSITY KOLHAPUR – 416004 (INDIA)

- Contact Details -

Prof. (Dr.) M. S. Deshmukh Managing Editor,

Journal of Shivaji University (Humanities and Social Sciences), Department of Economics, Shivaji University, Kolhapur - 416004 E-mail: editorjsu@unishivaji.ac.in Phone: 0231- 2609179 Website:http://www.unishivaji.ac.in/journals/

Disclaimer

The views expressed in the articles included in this volume are those of respective authors and the Editorial Board and Publisher of the journal are not responsible for the same. The articles published in this Journal of Shivaji University (Humanities and Social Sciences), is subject to copy right of the publisher. No material can be reproduced without prior permission of the publisher.

© SHIVAJI UNIVERSITY, KOLHAPUR ISSN: 0368-4199

Published by: Dr. V. D. Nandavadekar Registrar, Shivaji University Kolhapur

Printed by: Press Superintendent, Shivaji University Press, KOLHAPUR – 416004

Year of Publication : October, 2020

(The Managing Editor, on behalf of the Editorial Board of the Journal of Shivaji University (Humanities and Social Sciences) Volume-53, Issue-1 Jan-June 2020 wishes to express his thanks to the contributing authors and the experts for acting as referees for the papers included in this volume.)

CONTENTS

Sr. No.	Title	Page No.
1.	Economic Impact of Covid-19 on India and Policy Forward Dr. P. S. Kamble	1-21
2.	Eligible Versus Ineligible Farmer Suicides in Maharashtra, 2001- 2018: Trends of Complexity Across Districts from Marathwada and Vidarbha Dr. Dnyandev C. Talule	22-64
3.	Farmer's Income and Consumption Pattern in Drought Affected Blocks of Western Maharashtra (India) Dr. M. S. Deshmukh, Dr . Satish Vyavahare	65-82
4.	A Comparative study on the unemployment problem in different countries Sushil Bhimrao Bansode	83-94
5.	कोरोना/कोविड -१९ महामारीचे सामाजिक परिणाम डॉ. प्रल्हाद मा. माने	95-113
6.	An Overview on the Memorial stone, Rock edicts and Copper plates Vishwanath M. Ainapur	114-122



Economic Impact of Covid-19 on India and Policy Forward

Dr. P. S. Kamble

Abstract:

The entire World is suffering from Corona pandemic, and India cannot be an exception. India has been suffering from Covid-19 infection extensively as well as intensively. But the corona pandemic is a special and dangerous problem for India in many counts such as, it is highly populated, rural dominated, weak health sector especially public, demographic dividend availability, growing economy and many others. It is observed that Covid 19 infection is hard hitting the economic growth of India and its sectors, sub sectors and individual economic activities also. The present research article endeavours to examine the economic impact of Covid-19 pandemic on India, its contributing factors and probable policy measures to materalise twin objectives; revival and recovery of the economy and rehabilitation of the society especially labour class, and at the same time combating Covid-19 infection which is growing rapidly and extensively. The Covid-19 and its lockdown policy has imposed a heavy economic loss, burden, cost and damage to the Indian economy and its different productive sectors and sub sectors. This demands a concrete and definite policy formulation and its sincere, honest and rigorous implementation. A new economic stimulus package at least 5% of GDP which should be a sector specific like agriculture, industry, service, trade, labour, poor and so on, because the economic stimulus package of the government of India is just 1% of GDP according to the number of individual and institutional experts with more loan component and less proportion of direct transfer of income to the beneficiaries.

Keywords: Corona Pandemic, Covid-19, Economic Impact, Economic Growth, Gross Domestic Product (GDP), Economic Stimulus Package, Revival of Economy, Policy Direction

^{1.} **Professor** Department of Economics Shivaji University, Vidyanagar, Kolhapur (Maharashtra) Email: psk_eco@unishivaji.ac.in, Contact : +91 9423033179

I. Introduction:

The entire World is suffering from Corona pandemic. And India cannot be an exception to this, as it is part and parcel of the World with its integration, association and connection. The policy of economic reforms in general and globalization in particular has further intensified the corona pandemic in India and little bit chance of its exception. Consequently, India has been suffering from Covid-19 infection extensively as well as intensively. But the corona pandemic is a special and dangerous problem for India in many counts such as it is highly populated, rural dominated, weak health sector especially public, demographic dividend availability, growing economy and many others. It is observed that Covid 19 infection is hard hitting the economic growth of India and its sectors, sub sectors and individual economic activities also. It is not only this but it has also very severely affected social welfare and the society as a whole along with people of different strata in the society. This necessitates to analyse the impact of Covid 19 on Indian economy, its determinants and the probable policy direction which is needed and useful as well. It is against this over all backdrop, the present research article endeavours to examine the economic impact of Covid-19 pandemic on India, its contributing factors and probable policy measures to materalise twin objectives; revival and recovery of the economy and rehabilitation of the society especially labour class, and at the same time combating Covid-19 infection which is growing rapidly and which is becoming extensive and intensive in India, across the states and districts and local area also.

II. Review of Research Studies:

A review of some of the important research studies relating to the present topic has been carried out to arrive at research gaps and find out further area of research relating to the present research topic is presented below.

Vijayan P (2020) in his article argues that the COVID-19 pandemic has necessitated a rethinking of the contours of state intervention, especially in social sectors like health. The argument for rolling back the state has become questionable even among mainstream commentators. Kerala's experience shows how public investment in healthcare and a

participatory mode of governance with empowered local governments can help in pandemic mitigation. A truly federal set-up with shared responsibilities between the centre and states is better suited to deal with the situations like the present one rather than a centralised system. Kalita, Unmilan et al. (2020) reveal that the novel disease outbreaks have a history of ravaging the regional economies. The world economy has taken a massive hit due to COVID-19 and is expected to go into a recession by the next quarter. As such, it has become highly imperative to invest in total epidemic preparedness involving health and non-health interventions, research and development as well as capacity building at all levels. Kumar, Arun (2020) proposes that tackling the COVID-19 outbreak will require political will and decisive actions from the government in terms of ramping up the healthcare infrastructure, ensuring public distribution of essentials to fulfil basic needs, and income transfers to the poor, among others. The government should not constrain such expenditures in view of maintaining the permissible limit of fiscal deficit. A higher fiscal deficit may not be inflationary now, since demand is drastically down. Chakraborty and Thomas (2020) observe that the macroeconomic uncertainty created by COVID-19 is hard to measure. The situation demands simultaneous policy intervention in terms of public health infrastructure and livelihood. Along with the global community, India too has announced its initial dose of fiscal and monetary policy responses. However, more fiscal-monetary policy coordination is required to scale up the policy response to the emerging crisis. Innovative sources of financing the deficit, including money financing of fiscal programmes, a variant of "helicopter money," need. Dasgupta, Rajeev (2020) argues that the Indian economy, which was facing demand deficiency and slowdown prior to the Covid-19 outbreak, plunged further with the lockdown. The study represents the current problem as a typical demand constrained Keynesian equilibrium, afflicted further by demand and supply failures generated by transaction costs. The study reveals resulting scenario resembles a "supply constrained" Keynesian equilibrium. The authors also look at the possible impact on prices and discusses the implications of select policy interventions for such an economy. Dev and Sengupta (2020) argue the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic is an unprecedented shock to the Indian economy. The economy was already in a parlous state before Covid-19 struck. With the prolonged country-wide

Journal of Shivaji University (Humanities and Social Sciences)

lockdown, global economic downturn and associated disruption of demand and supply chains, the economy is likely to face a protracted period of slowdown. The magnitude of the economic impact will depend upon the duration and severity of the health crisis, the duration of the lockdown and the manner in which the situation unfolds once the lockdown is lifted. The study analyses the state of the Indian economy in the pre-Covid-19 period, assesses the potential impact of the shock on various segments of the economy, analyses the policies that have been announced so far by the central government and the Reserve Bank of India to ameliorate the economic shock and put forward a set of policy recommendations for specific sectors. Mishra, Kumar (2020), reveal that the global economy could shrink by up to 1 per cent in 2020 due to the coronavirus pandemic, a reversal from the previous forecast of 2.5 per cent growth, the UN has said that it may contract even further if restrictions on the economic activities are extended without adequate fiscal responses. The COVOD-19 pandemic will cause a dramatic drop in FDI flows. MNEs, local business and investment have been severely affected with far reaching social and economic repercussions. The coronavirus crisis is first and foremost a public health threat, but it is also, and increasingly, an economic threat. The so-called -Covid-19 shock will trigger a recession in some countries and a deceleration of global annual growth to below 2.5 per cent -- often taken as the recessionary threshold for the world economy.

The foregoing review of some of the research studies reveals that, there are a few research studies those have been undertaken relating to the impact of Covid 19 especially economic impact on the economy. Besides this, there are not much efforts found directed towards analysing the economic impact on the economy like India. Hence the present research study has been taken up, which analyses the economic impact of Covid-19 especially lockdown on Indian economy, the determinants of adverse economic impact and also puts forward a policy for the revival and rehabilitation of the economy as well as poor and labour class in the country.

III. Research Methodology:

The Covid-19 pandemic is a global phenomenon and problem, but is of greater intensity and gravity in the country like us. More importantly, it has posed two challenges at a time, one of weakening and failure of health sector in general and public health sector in particular and deep rooted adverse impact on the economic growth of the economy and its sub sectors and their collapse as well. Hence its research study was inevitable and urgently needed to take up. It is therefore the present study has been taken up. The prime and major objective of the present study is to analyse the economic impact of Covid-19 lockdown policy on India and its determinants coupled with policy direction. The present study is of analytical type, which analyses the economic impact of Covid 19 on India along with its determinants with the help of data and the analysis of the data results. The study primarily depends on the secondary data for the nature and extent of Covid-19 infection as well economic growth indicated by the GDP and its sub sectors as well as the determinants of growth like consumption, investment, government expenditure and net exports. The data has been collected from the Ministry of Health Government of India, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, NSSO Reports, Economic Survey of India, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Trade and Industry, Center for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE), research papers and articles and the newspapers like Economic times. The collected secondary data is not a time series but it is for the different points of time as per the availability and the necessity. The collected data was analysed by applying the simple statistical tools like growth, percentage share and others. The analysed of the data results have been interpreted and conclusions and inferences have been revealed. The data analysis has put forward problems, sub problems and weaknesses relating growth, sectors, employment unemployment, and policy measures have been considered for the remedial measures, suggestions and policy direction.

IV. Result and Discussion :

Nature and Extent of Covid-19 Infection In India:

Covid-19 is a World pandemic about more than 172 countries have been suffering from its infection. On 21st July 2020 World has in all 14.68 million Covid-19 infected cases.

Out of which 8.77 million cases have been recovered, but 609733 deaths have been taken place and all others are active cases. So far as India is concerned, the total number infected cases stood at 1127281, out of which 391727 cases are active, 27628 deaths have been taken place and 707926 cases have been cured. The analysis of Covid-19 infection in India reveals that it is concentrated in a few states than all others namely Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Delhi, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh, with 64% share in total number of infected cases. The state of Maharashtra is in a leading positon with 310455, which is followed by all others with 175678, 123747, 63772 and 49650 cases respectively. Delhi has the highest rate of recovery with 85%, which is followed by Tamil Nadu 69%, Maharashtra 55%, Andhra Pradesh 46% and Karnataka 36% respectively. The death rate is the highest in Maharashtra with 3.82%, which is followed by Delhi 2.96%, Karnataka 2.09%, Tamil Nadu 1.45% and Andhra Pradesh 1.29%. The further area wise analysis of Covid-19 infection in India shows that it is prominently concentrated in a few cities and metropolitans, and Delhi is in leading position with 123747 cases, which is followed by Mumbai with 101388, Chennai 87325, Thane 75111, Pune 54624, Hyderabad 31929, Bangalore 31929, Ahmadabad, Kolkatta and Palghar respectively with their 49.55% share in total cases infected from Covid-19 virus. But this scenario is changing, recently with rising infected cases in rural areas and villages as well. For example, the infected cases in Kolhapur district are increasing rapidly even in the recent lockdown in the urban areas like Kolhapur municipal corporation and Ichalkaranji municipal council, but the noteworthy thing is, the infected cases also have reached to all 12 tehsils and their villages of Kolhapur district is a thing of serious concern, to the real sense of meaning. In the last 3 to 4 days, the number of infected cases increasing rapidly at about more than 35000 cases daily and consequently has achieved a leading position across the countries in the World. This is showing extensive and intensive increasing a big challenge of Covid-19 pandemic before the globe as well as India and the state like Maharashtra, which is in leading position from the beginning only.

On 28th July 2020, the total number of cases infected from Covid-19 in the World stood at 16.46 million, out of which 653047 deaths have been taken place and 10.1 million cases

have been recovered. According Ministry of Health government of India, as of today, the total infected cases were 1464990 with net addition of 52827 over previous day, out of which 496102 active cases with net addition of 18665, 33111 deaths and 935777 cured cases. The Covid-19 cases in India has been prominently contributed by 63.64% to total by only five states, which includes Maharashtra (375799) stood first, which is followed by Tamil Nadu (213723), Delhi (130606), Andhra Pradesh (96298) and Karnataka (96141) respectively. But Delhi is in leading position in recovery rate with 87.96%, followed by Tamil Nadu (73.24%), Maharashtra (56.74%), Andhra Pradesh (48.08%) and Karnataka (37.28%) respectively. But unfortunately Maharashtra has a highest death rate with 3.63%, which is followed by Delhi (2.93%), Karnataka (1.95%), Tamil Nadu (1.63%), and Andhra Pradesh (1.08%). Besides this, the extent and intensity of corona infection in India has been concentrated (44.39% share in total) in some cities and metropolitans, which comprises of Delhi with 130606 cases, which is followed by Mumbai (109161), Chennai (94695), Thane (86358), Pune (76203), Bangalore (45453), Hyderabad (35970), Ahmadabad (25692), Kolkatta (18201), and Raigad (14580) respectively. The salient feature of Covid-19 infection is the bulk of infected cases are in the age group less than 40 years and 40 to 60 years. But the death rate is higher for the patients in the age group above 60 years which is 9% and it is about 2.6% for all others coupled with comorbidity of the diseases like blood pressure, heart problems, kidney problems and others also. Health sector of India as well as globe has failed in combatting infection because of domination of private sector, inadequate public sector, shortage of staff, equipment's, testing laboratories and other infrastructure as well as facilities.

It is about one year to be completed since the outbreak of the corona 19 infection, and it was in control after the passage of time. But recently its outbreak is found in the World as well as in India in the muted form known as second form of Covid 19. And its infection is increasing especially in the foreign countries like USA, UK, Canada, Italy, Germany and others. Recently its infection also significantly in India also. As on 28th February 2021, the total number of new infected cases in India stood at 15510 with an average of 15199 in the last week period. The across the state analysis of the covid infected cases reveals

that it is concentrated in a few states only such as Maharashtra, Kerala, Karnataka Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu with 2.16M, + 8,293, 1.06M, + 3,254, 951K, + 521, 890K, +117 and 852K, + 479 cases respectively. The present positon of the corona infected cases in the World reached to Total cases: 114M, Recovered: 64.4M, Deaths: 2.53M as on 28th February 2021. This is an adequate proof of still the risk and danger of corona pandemic and its adverse impact has not yet ended.

Economic Impact of Covid-19 on India:

India has been implementing the measures such as use of sanitizer, hand wash, safe distancing, mask, face cover and prominently lockdown. As of now, no vaccine as well as medicine hence we are dominantly depending upon lockdown as a definite and assured measure and remedy on combating Covid-19 infection spread and control. All economic activities and transactions were closed and shut down due to the policy of lockdown. But unfortunately, the policy of lockdown is very hard hitting the economic growth, its sectors and sub sectors, individual economic activities of India and across the states and areas. Hence it is of crucial importance to study and analyse the economic impact of Covid-19 especially of the measure of lockdown on India. It has been hard hitting the economic growth of India, which was just haphazard and unplanned without any pre intimation and information. In general, it is observed that the lockdown policy did not succeed and become effective in controlling the spread of Covid-19 infection extensively and intensively, but it is very adversely affecting economic growth of India. It did not succeed in controlling infection, deaths and increase in health infrastructure to the extent expected and desirable, but hampered the economic growth of India over all, sector wise and sub sector and activities wise also.

Economic growth of a country is indicated by the GDP. The trends in GDP of India reveals that the GDP growth rate in the pre Covid-19 crisis was 5.6% in January 2019, which fell to 3.1% in the post Covid-19 period and it is showing further and continuous fall. The quarter wise GDP growth in the pre and post lockdown reveals that it was 7.1%, 6.2%, 5.6%, 5.83% in the year 2019-20 respectively, which fell to 5.6%, 5.1%, 4.4% and 3% respectively in 2020-21 indicates how lockdown policy is affecting adversely

the economic growth of India. In April 2020 Chief Economist of International Monetary Fund (IMF) Gita Gopinath has given a forecasted data, which shows that in the year 2020 the GDP of India will grow at the rate of just 1.9%, and it will be 1.2% for China, -6.1% for USA and -3% for the World economy. On 9th June 2020 the World Bank in its World Economic Outlook says in the Year 2020 the GDP growth rate of India will be -3.2% and for China it will be 1%, USA -7%, and World economy -5% respectively. Recently on 25th June 2020 the International Monetary Fund has released a revised data which indicates that in the year 2021 the World economy will grow at the rate of -4.9% and for India it will be 4.5% fall in GDP of India. According to India Rating and Research Agency the GDP growth rate of India in 2019-20 will be -5.3% and it will require to the growth at 5-6% rate for its recovery. The State Bank of India has forecasted that in the post Covid-19 period, there will be a loss of 40% of GDP in April-June Quarter of 2020. According to Reserve Bank of India, the GDP growth rate of India will be zero in the year 2019-20 and it will be negative in 2020-21. On 23 July 2020 the ICRA has given a data that India will grow at -9.5% in the year 2021-22, which was forecasted at -5% previously. According to CARE the GDP growth rate of India will contract by -6.4% in 2020-21 which was previously estimated at -1.3%. The HDFC bank says India's GDP will grow at the rate of -6.5 to 6% in 2021-22, which was forecasted at 5%.

National Statistical Office (NSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation has released the Second Advance Estimates of National Income, 2020-21 as well as Quarterly Estimates of GDP for the quarter October-December (Q3), 2020-21 in February 2021. Real GDP or Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at Constant (2011-12) Prices in the year 2020-21 is estimated to attain a level of ₹ 134.09 lakh crore, as against the First Revised Estimate of GDP for the year 2019-20 of ₹ 145.69 lakh crore, released on 29th January 2021. The growth in GDP during 2020-21 is estimated at -8.0 percent as compared to 4.0 percent in 2019-20. GDP at Current Prices in the year 2020-21 is estimated to attain a level of ₹ 195.86 lakh crore, as against ₹ 203.51 lakh crore in 2019-20, showing a growth rate of -3.8 percent. The Per Capita Income in real terms (at 2011-12 Prices) during 2020-21 is estimated to attain a level of ₹ 85,929 as compared to ₹ 94,566 in the year 2019-20, giving a growth of -9.1 percent during 2019-20, as against 2.5 per cent in the previous year. The Per Capita Income at current prices during 2020-21 is estimated to be ₹ 127,768, showing a decline of 4.8 percent, as compared to ₹ 134,186 during 2019-20. GDP at Constant (2011-12) Prices in Q3 of 2020-21 is estimated at ₹ 36.22 lakh crore, as against ₹ 36.08 lakh crore in Q3 of 2019-20, showing a growth of 0.4 percent. In the time of macroeconomic uncertainty, high fiscal deficit announced in Union Budget 2021 can be growth enhancing as it can catalyse public investment and reduce the output gap (Chakraborty, Lekha, 2021, p24).

This has further contributed in fall in employment generation and rapidly increasing unemployment in India, which has a benefit of demographic dividend. The rate of unemployment was just 6.2% in 2016-17, which very rapidly rose to 8.7% in March 2020, further to 23.5% in April 2020, 23.97% in May 2020 and it further increased rapidly and significantly in the post lock down period according to CMIE data. We have less than 10% formal employment and more than 90% informal employment. About 45 crore people are working in informal sector in India, with 40% migrant labours which suffered a lot due to loss of livelihoods and lives as well. In all 140 million people have lost their jobs in post lockdown period and in export sector alone 15 million jobs and in textile sector 3 million jobs have been lost. It did not recover to the desirable extent in the unlock policy period also. With the unlocking and opening up of the Indian economy employment generation is taking place, but not to the expected and desirable extent and pre corona pandemic level. Hence participation of workforce and unemployment level could not reach to the pre corona outbreak. According to CMIE, Mar 2020 in the unemployment rate for the nation was 8.75%, for urban area 9.41% and for rural rea it was 8.44%, it rapidly rose in May 2020 to 21.73%, 23.14%, and 21.11% respectively. It further changed in January 2021 to 6.53%, 8.08%, and 5.83% respectively. Recently on 3rd February 2021 the unemployment rate stood at 6.2% for the entire country, for Urban area 8.1% and for Rural area 5.4% respectively. The state wise analysis of the unemployment rate reveals that it was highest for Jammu & Kashmir at 21.9%, Tripura 18.1%, Haryana & Rajasthan, Tripura 18.1%, 17.7%, Goa 16.0%, Delhi 12.5%,

Jharkhand 11.3% have the highest rate of unemployment. The shortcomings of the response, especially taking into consideration the curtailment of human mobility, which pushed migrants into enormous physical, psychological, and economic vulnerability, and the short-, medium-, and long-term measures provided by the government in order to alleviate them (Rajan, S Irudaya, 2020, p13).

The economic theory suggests that 3% is a natural rate of unemployment, which is affordable for any economy that exists due to changes in the policies, technologies and tastes and habits of the people in the country. The data reveals that unemployment is a highly intensive and extensive problem in India and across the states even after one year of outbreak of the corona pandemic. As a result poverty in India has been picked up. According to SOC Children's Villages, two-thirds of people in India live in poverty: 68.8% of the Indian population lives on less than \$2 a day. Over 30% even have less than \$1.25 per day available - they are considered extremely poor. This makes the Indian subcontinent one of the poorest countries in the world; women and children, the weakest members of Indian society, suffer most.

The foregoing analysis reveals that the Covid-19 lockdown policy has very deeply and intensively adversely affecting economic growth of India as indicated by the trends in GDP analysed above because all productive sectors and economic activities were shut down as the part of lockdown policy. Even a gradual unlock is not effective and helping in the revival of the economy to the extent expected and again imposition of lockdowns frequently resulting in absence of desirable indicates planned efforts further.

The overall economic growth of the economy is contributed by three productive sectors namely agriculture, industry and service which have contributed by 16%, 30% and 54% respectively in the year 2018-19. This poses the urgent need for examining the impact of Covid-19 especially on the productive sectors such as agriculture, industry and service also. Industry sector plays a very important role in the rapid and all round development of the economy. It is observed that the lockdown policy that India has adopted to control growing infection has very hard hit. According to the data given by Ministry of Statistics

and Programme Implementation Government of India in the pre lockdown period the growth rate of Industry was 2.1% in January 2020, which very rapidly fell to -18.3% in April 2020 and it showed a further and continuous fall thereafter, which indicates a rapid and significant adverse impact on the industry sector. When the trends in month to month industrial production are considered, it is observed the growth rate of industry sector fell from 2% in pre lockdown period to -10% post lock down period, which also registered a rapid and significant fall continuously thereafter as well. Even the trends in production of individual industries is taken into account a very rapid and significant decline in their production is observed especially in the case of Steel. Cement, Car and many others.

National Statistical Office (NSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation has released the Second Advance Estimates of National Income, 2020-21 as well as Quarterly Estimates of GDP for the quarter October-December (Q3), 2020-21 in February 2021. The agriculture sector grew at the rate of 4.3% at constant prices (2011-12) in 2019-20, which fell significantly to 3% in 2020-21. During the same period mining & quarrying registered decline from -2.5% to -9.2%, manufacturing -2.4% to -8.4%, Electricity, gas, water supply, utility 2.1% to 1.84%, construction 1% to -10.3%, Trade, hotel, transport & communication 6.4% to -18%, Financial, real estate & Professional services 7.3% to -1.4% and Public administration, defence & other 8.3% to -4.1% respectively indicates except agriculture & allied activities and construction all other activities have registered a negative growth in the year 2020-21 over 2019-20 indicates activity or sub sector wise the negative impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and lockdown policy adopted. As a result the Gross Value Added (GVA) in India during 2019-20 to 2020-21 shows a significant fall from 4.1% to -6.5%. The quarter wise analysis of growth in the afore mentioned activities or sub sectors reveals that in the first quarter of the year except mining and quarrying (-1.3%) all others have registered a positive growth with 5% for the year, but in the first quarter of 2020-21 except agriculture and allied activities (3.3%) all the activities and sub sector showed a higher level negative growth (eg; manufacturing -35.9%, construction -49.4% and trade, hotel, transport & communication -47.6% with -22.4% GVA, which was further continued in the second

as well as third quarter but with improvement.

According to Ministry of Trade and Industry in the post lockdown period compared to 2019 in 2020 a very large decrease in production of eight main industries is found. The production of Coal fell rapidly from 3.2% growth rate in April 2019 to -15.5% in April 2020. Likewise, Crude oil output grew at the rate -6.7% from -6.4%, Natural gas by -19.9% from -0.8%, Refinery products by -24.2% from 4.3%, Fertilisers by -4.5% from -4.4%, Steel by - 83.3% from 13.3%, Cement by -86% from 23%, Electricity by -22.8% from 5.9%, registering a total fall by -38.1% from 8.2%, is a thing of serious concern. Further it is observed that in April 2020 core industry sector of India contracted by 38% with Cement 86%, Electricity 22.7%, Fertilisers 4.5%, and Crude oil 6.3% respectively. The analysis of industry wise impact of covid pandemic depicts that compared to the third quarter of 2019-20 in the year 2020-21 except coal production, steel consumption and purchase of private vehicles, manufacturing and electricity, all major industries and services such as crude oil production, cement production, cargo handled railway passengers, metallic minerals have registered a significant negative growth

We introduce India as an agricultural country, hence it is of crucial importance to examine the impact of Covid-19 lockdown on agriculture sector of India. According to Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation GDP contributed by agriculture was Rs. 6098.83 lakh crore in January 2020 in pre lockdown which fell to Rs. 5306.26 lakh crore in April 2020 in post lock down period. In the year 2018-19 agricultural exports earned \$38 billion, which was lost because of Covid-19 lockdown in post lockdown period. About 700 million people in India depending on agriculture directly or indirectly as a source of livelihood suffered a lot during post lockdown due to close down of all agriculture and allied activities. More importantly, about 55% labours engaged in agriculture sector lost their livelihood in the corona pandemic period. About 45% workforce is cultivators which suffered a loss of income due to adverse impact of lockdown on agriculture. Actually, in this year the natural conditions were favourable and hence was expected a significant increase in production and the season was also good but due to lockdown and no logistics and access to markets the farmers producing vegetables like tomato, cabbage, cauliflower, fruits like water melon, mango and food grains like paddy and wheat farmers suffered a huge economic loss, is a thing of concern. But unfortunately, due to limited supply of agricultural produce in the cities and metropolitans a significant rise in prices of agricultural commodities was observed. For example, during April 2019 to April 2020 the prices of cereals and products rose from 1.2% 2.8%, of milk and milk products from 0.4% to 9.4%, oil and fats from 0.7% to 10.8%, vegetables from 2.9% to 23.6%, pulses and products from -0.8% to 22.8%, which put additional economic burden on poor strata of the society in the urban areas, which can be described as Agricultural paradox or dilemma. According to the recent data in the year 2020-21 except agriculture (3%) and electricity, gas , water and utility (1.8%) all others have exhibited the negative growth only compared to the year 2019-20.

According to the quarter wise latest data also agriculture and allied activities have illustrated a positive growth of 3.9%, which was 3.4% in the third quarter during 2020-21 and 2019-20. India is a service sector dominated economy so far as the economic growth of India is concerned. It is therefore very much needed to study the impact of Covid-19 pandemic on service sector of the economy as well. The ease of doing business indicates state of service sector development and in the post lockdown period a significant fall is registered by the Ease of Doing Business Index from 63 in 2019 to 40 in 2020 and further continuous decline. Trade is a service and the balance of the trade indicates growth in international trade as well as the magnitude also, but the balance of trade of India has down turned from \$ -15170 million in January 2020 to -6760 in April 20 and further to -3150 in the post lockdown. According to RBI, the capital inflows in India have declined from \$ 149.89 million in January 2020 to \$ 19.36 million in June 2020. More importantly, the exports of India have been fallen very rapidly by May 2020 by 60% in such a huge quantity. Likewise, the number tourists in India has been very rapidly fell from 15 lakh in January20 to just 3 lakh in April 20, adequately indicates service sector as a whole as well as individual services have shown a very rapid fall in the post lock down period in comparison with the pre lockdown period.

This is an adequate and reliable proof of the corona pandemic has very hardly hit the Indian

economy and its productive sectors and sub sectors. Even though a gradual unlocking and a economic stimulus package and measures & reforms coupled with the involvement of the RBI did not succeed to revive and improve the state of economic growth of the economy at even to pre pandemic level. Hence we cannot think of economic supremacy of economy and it as a \$ 5 trillion economy along with the doubling of farmers' income expecting at least a double digit growth rate.

Determinants of Impact on Economic Growth of India:

According to Macro economic theory economic growth that is GDP is contributed by the Consumption expenditure (C), Investment expenditure (I), Government expenditure (G) and Net Exports (x). Thus **GDP** = C + I + G + (X-M) therefore consumption expenditure, investment expenditure, government expenditure and net exports are the determinants of economic growth (GDP) of India. In this formula, GDP = Gross Domestic Product, C= Consumption Expenditure, I= Investment Expenditure, G= Government Expenditure, X= Export value, I= Import value, x= Net export value. This requires to analyse the behavior of all these determinants of economic growth of India in the post lockdown period which indicates the adverse impact of Covid-19 lockdown policy on growth of the economy as a whole as well as its sectors like agriculture, industry and service. Hence this section of the paper is devoted to the analysis of determinants of economic growth of India. Some of the indicators of four determinants of economic growth have been taken into account and their data analysis has been carried out to prove the adverse impact of lockdown policy on the GDP of India as well as its productive sectors namely agriculture, industry and service.

Consumption is a very important determinant of economic growth of the any economy. The role and importance of the consumption expenditure has been very well explained by J. M. Keynes in his book "The General Theory of Employment, Interest and Money" in the generation of the output, income and employment. Likewise, Reserve Bank of India also says, consumption expenditure contributes about 60% share in the total output and income generation in the economy. Here consumption is a private consumption expenditure. Consumer Confidence is an indicator of consumer behaviour and thereby consumption expenditure in the economy. According to RBI, the consumer confidence index was 85.7 in January 2020 quarter in the pre lockdown period, which fell to 83.7 in June 2020 quarter and continued its rapid fall further in the lockdown period. According to Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Government of India household consumption expenditure was Rs. 21823. 52 in January 2020 quarter which fell to 21250.99 in June 2020 quarter. At the same time, Consumer Price Index (CPI) was 150.2 in January 2020 pre lockdown period, which very significantly declined to 148.6 in April 2020.

This reveals that compared to pre lockdown period in the post lockdown period, a significant decrease is found in the consumption expenditure, which contributed considerably to down turn in economic growth of India. Investment is also a determinant factor of economic growth of the economy and its sectors as well. Investment in the economy depends on the loans and advances extended by the banks, which grew at the rate of 7.6% in January 2020, which rapidly fell to 4% in May 2020. As a result gross capital formation in India also showed a down turn from Rs. 11302.01 crore in January 2019 to Rs. 10943.23 crore in May 2020, according to Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, New Delhi. Likewise, foreign direct invest also has been declined significantly in the post lockdown period. This adequately supports that investment expenditure in India has been fell very considerably in the post lock down period and helped in the deterioration in the economic growth as well as its productive sectors in the economy. Government expenditure has a special importance in the revival of the economy and arresting declining growth in the economy. It is a well proved and justified as well recommended measure especially during great depression of 1929. J. M. Keynes has very largely prescribed measure on the revival of the economy during the economic crisis. In this backdrop, it is crucial importance to examine the trends in the government expenditure especially in the post lockdown period.

According to the data given by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Government of India, the government spending was Rs. 3877.29 lakh crore in January 2020 which very significantly decreased to Rs. 3807.42 lakh crore in June 2020. More importantly, according to the Controller General of Accounts of India the fiscal expenditure of India was Rs. 22683.29 lakh crore in January 2020 which very rapidly fell to Rs. 3070.6 lakh crore in April 2020 and further continued in the post lockdown period. This adequately reveals that the significantly declining government expenditure in India in the post lock down period contributed to a unexpected and unprecedented down turn in the GDP of India as well as its productive sectors and sub sectors. International trade in general and exports in particular play a very crucial role in the economic growth of the economy. This demands to analyse the trends in the indicators relating to international trade, especially exports. According to Ministry of Commerce and Trade, the total exports of India stood at Rs. 25360 million in January 2020 which very rapidly fell to Rs. 10360 million in April 2020, they showed wide fluctuations later on in the post lockdown period. Similarly, India's imports also have registered more or less the same trend during the same period. Likewise, individual commodities like vehicles, fruits and nuts, dairy produce, and many others also registered a trend of a continuous and rapid fall in their exports. In May 2020 the total exports of India fell by 60% and in March 2020 the commodities like oil meals, meat and dairy, engineering goods, gems and jewelry, leather and leather products have registered a rapid fall in their exports by more than 50% on an average. Thus exports also cannot helped in the revival of economic growth of the economy and its sectors due to their rapid and significant downturn.

As per the latest data given in February 2021 by National Statistical Office (NSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, private consumption expenditure has fell to Rs. 7574812 Crore at 2011-12 prices in the year 2020-21 from Rs 8321701 crore in 2019-20. During the same period government expenditure shows a little bit increase of 17000 crore. But Gross capital formation fell from 4730416 crore to 4144957 crore. Likewise both the imports and exports have presented a significant decline but the fall in exports was more, which declined to 2598162 crore from 282639 crore in 2020-21 from 2019-20. Rapidly growing and higher level unemployment also contributed to a significant rise in poverty and intensive decline in consumption expenditure. Higher level and growing economic inequality also helped in fall in demand and consumption expenditure and there by depressing economic growth of the Indian economy. As per the pre corona pandemic Oxfam report , India has a high level of economic inequality with 1% households possessing 73% share in total wealth, income and consumption, which is further increased in the post corona pandemic period as per the latest Oxfam report. The COVID-19 pandemic may affect the financing opportunities for innovation. The revenue loss induced by the pandemic is likely to divert the existing resources in aiding firm survival and economic recovery, with financing innovation taking the back seat (Reddy and Subash, 2020, p22).

In summing up the analysis of the determinants of the economic growth of India reveals that all the four determinants namely private consumption expenditure (C), investment expenditure (I), government expenditure (G) and net exports have fallen very rapidly and contributed to a significant downturn in economic growth of the economy as well as its sectors and led to the state of deep recession or nearby depression, which was a loss to the economy India experienced in after last 40 years. India's public health system has struggled to cope with the COVID-19 crisis. Even before the pandemic, India's public health infrastructure was inadequate with only 0.55 beds per 1,000 population, while out-of-pocket expenditure was pushing almost 63 million people back into

poverty, as a large number of healthcare positions lie vacant across the country (Patnaik and Sharma, 2020, p12) .

V. Conclusion and Policy Forward:

The Covid-19 and its lockdown policy has imposed a heavy economic loss, burden and damage to the Indian economy and its different productive sectors and sub sectors as well. This demands a concrete and definite policy formulation and its sincere, honest and rigorous implementation. The necessary policy can be formulated and implemented by considering the following guidelines and inputs, which will be a policy forward in the post Covid 19 pandemic period revival and improvement of the economy.

A new economic stimulus package at least 5% of GDP which should be a sector specific like agriculture, industry, service, trade, labour, poor strata of the society and so on

Journal of Shivaji University (Humanities and Social Sciences)

because the stimulus package of the government of India is just 1% of GDP according to the number of individual and institutional experts with more loan content and less direct transfer of income portion. The financial package should have more direct transfer of income content than the loan component. Post Covid-19 lockdown has hit hard the poor and labour class in the society, they all should be covered under the basic universal income of at least Rs. 7500 per head per month till their rehabilitation and revival, which is being implemented across the countries in the globe. India has adequate stock of food grains with the Food Corporation of India which will be further added in by the production in the current year due to favourable natural conditions, hence food grains should be distributed free of cost among the poor, migrant labours, informal labours and agricultural labours, handicapped and other deprived strata of the population. A pro employment growth strategy should be formulated and implemented to combat highly intensive and extensive unemployment problem during corona pandemic in India, which has the benefit of demographic dividend. The MGNREGA should be made extensive and intensive in rural areas coupled with its introduction in the urban areas also. The banking and financial sector should be made more liberal and open to meet credit demand of the different productive sectors and sub sectors. The health sector should be strengthened by assigning a status of social commodity or service and due coordination with the private sector also. The emphasis should be given on infrastructure development which will be useful for revival of the economy as well as more importantly employment generation and arresting the growing unemployment. A selective and containment zone specific lockdown policy instead of for the entire country, state and district should be implemented so as to revive the economy. The citizens of India should behave responsibly and in a disciplined manner along with the honest and sincere implementation of the measures such as safe distancing, mask, face cover, hand wash, sanitizer. This policy direction will enable us in realizing twin objectives; that is revival of the deeply depressed Indian economy and its sectors & sub sectors and combating extensively and intensively growing Covid-19 infection in India, across the states, districts and urban as well as rural areas.

References:

- 1. Vijayan P (2020), Challenges in the Midst of the COVID-19 Pandemic , Economic & Political Weekly (EPW) June 13, 2020 Vol LV No 24, Mumbai, pp11-13.
- 2. Kalita, Unmilan et al (2020), Economic Implication of a Novel Disease Outbreak Understanding Its Genesis, Economic & Political Weekly (EPW) June 13, 2020, Vol. LV No 24, Mumbai, pp25-27.
- 3. Kumar, Arun (2020), Impact of COVID-19 and What Needs to Be Done, Economic & Political Weekly (EPW), April 4, 2020 Vol. LV No 10 14, Mumbai, pp10-12.
- 4. Chakraborty and Thomas (2020), COVID-19 and Macroeconomic Uncertainty Fiscal and Monetary Policy Response, Economic & Political Weekly (EPW) April 11, 2020 Vol. LV No 15, Mumbai, pp15-18.
- 5. Dasgupta and Rajeev (2020), Paradox of a Supply Constrained Keynesian Equilibrium The COVID-19 Case, Economic Political Weekly, May 30, 2020 Vol LV no 22, Mumbai, pp22-27.
- 6. Ghosh, Sangeeta (2020), Examining the COVID-19 Relief Package for MSMEs, Economic Political Weekly, May 30, 2020 Vol LV no 22, Mumbai, pp10-12.
- 7. Dasgupta et al. (2020), Procedural Rationality in the Time of COVID-19, Economic Political Weekly, May 30, 2020 Vol LV no 25, Mumbai, pp13-16.
- 8. Dev and Sengupta (2020), Covid-19: Impact on the Indian Economy, Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research, Mumbai, April 2020WP-2020-013, pp1-50.
- 9. Mishra, Kumar (2020), The World after COVID-19 and its impact on Global Economy, ZBW Leibniz Information Centre for Economics, Kiel, Hamburg , pp1-12.
- Chakraborty, Lekha (2021), Union Budget 2021–22 : The Macroeconomic Framework, Economic & Political Weekly, February 27, 2021, Vol. LVI No. 9, pp20-24.
- 11. Rajan, S Irudaya (2020), COVID-19-led Migrant Crisis A Critique of Policies, Economic & Political Weekly, November 28, 2020 Vol. LV No 47, pp13-16.
- Reddy and Subash S (2020), Will COVID-19 Change the Landscape of Financing Innovation in India?, Economic & Political Weekly, November 28, 2020 Vol. LV No 47, pp22-24.

- 13. Patnaik and Sharma (2020), The COVID-19 Crisis An Opportunity to Invest in Equitable Public Health Systems, Economic & Political Weekly, November 28, 2020 Vol LV No 47, pp12-17.
- 14. Government of India (2020), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare Reports, New Delhi
- 15. Government of India (2021), National Statistical Office (NSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, New Delhi
- 16. Government of India, Economic Survey Reports, New Delhi
- 17. Reserve Bank of India (2020), Reports and Occasional Publications, Mumbai.
- 18. State Bank of India (2020), Reports and Occasional Reports, Mumbai.
- 19. International Monetary Fund (2020), Reports and Occasional Publications, New York.
- 20. World Health Organisation (2020), Reports and Occasional Publications, Geneva.
- 21. World Bank (2020), Reports and Occasional Publications, New York.
- 22. CMIE (2020), Reports on Employment and Unemployment, Mumbai.
- 23. NSSO (2006-7), Report on Employment and Unemployment, New Delhi.
- 24. Daily Economic Times, Mumbai, 24 March 2020 to 28 July 2020

$\left[2\right]$

Eligible Versus Ineligible Farmer Suicides in Maharashtra, 2001-2018: Trends of Complexity Across Districts from Marathwada and Vidarbha

Dr. Dnyandev C. Talule ¹

Abstract:

Arresting the magnitude of farmer suicides in Marathwada and Vidarbha has become a challenge for the state planning in Maharashtra. In all 23, 701 farmers have ended their life through suicide during the eighteen years of 2001-2018. Districts of Amravati division from western Vidarbha have always remained at the top of the list of farmer suicides in Maharashtra while Marathwada region with Usmanabad district being at the top occupies the second position. The disturbing and anomalous trend in suicides is continuously observed across districts of Marathwada and Vidarbha regions of Maharashtra. Amravati, Yavatmal, Buldhana and Wardha district of Vidarbha have recorded the highest incidences of farmer suicides during the period of 2001-2018. The present paper being a precursor to our larger canvas study based on the census survey on farmers suicides of two most affected districts from Marathwada and Vidarbha region respectively the Usmanabad and Yavatmal draws its findings from the district wise data on suicides spanning between Jan 2001 and July 2018. It is for eighteen districts across Marathwada and Vidarbha. Classification of farmer suicides as eligible and ineligible suicide in Maharashtra is an administrative complexity. This dwarfs the figure on suicides which already suffers from underreporting of the act by these rural people. Defining the suicide as an illegible and ineligible has its implications on the quality of measuring the rate of incidence. An equally large number of suicides in Maharashtra are classified as an ineligible farmer suicides. This is mainly on account of the non-possession of the 7/12 abstract of land record by a deceased farmers that throws him out of the ambit to be identified as the Bonafide cultivator. Therefore the suicide Mortality Rates for ineligible

^{1.} **Professor and Head,** Department of Economics, Shivaji University, Kolhapur (MH), India, 416 004 Email: dnyanshrinit@gmail.com, Contact: + 91-9423750555 / (0231) 2609177.

farmer suicides in several districts of both these regions are comparable to the eligible farmer suicide cases. Major suicide hit tracts of these two regions of Maharashtra are known for their cotton cultivation which is dominated by Bt varieties. It has coincided with the income rise of farmers but not the complete elimination of pesticide use. The elimination of pesticide was promised by Bt research while launching the varieties in India during the 1990s. Therefore the post reforms development discourse started with farmer suicides, has unfortunately turned to a pro-or-anti Bt debate. This has ignored the basic necessities of commercial cultivation such as the irrigation, credit and marketing plus post-harvest management and processing. The cultivator data that we have used for computing the Suicide Mortality Rates (SMR) for total, eligible and ineligible farmer suicides is obtained from population census. We have avoided the use of agricultural census data on cultivators. The agricultural census mainly gives the number of operational holdings. It does not provide the accurate number of cultivators for a unit of area as more than one holdings may be operated by a single cultivator or more than one cultivator may practically operate on a single holding of the cultivable land. Therefore the computation of SMR across categories for districts and divisions from Marathwada and Vidarbha is based on the census number of cultivators and is not based on the number of cultivator given by the agricultural census.

I. Introduction:

The present paper is a precursor to our larger canvas study mainly based on the primary data survey on farmer suicides in Marathwada and Vidarbha region of Maharashtra. Census survey on farmer suicides of two most affected districts respectively the Usmanabad and Yavatmal from these two regions is in the final stage which covers the peak suicide period from Jan 2014 to Dec. 2017. The present paper is based on the district level data on farmer suicides from Marathwada and Vidarbha regions of Maharashtra. District wise data spans for over a period between Jan. 2001 and July 2018. The data are sourced in from the respective divisional Commissionerate of Aurangabad, Amravati and Nagpur. It estimates the district wise suicide mortality rates for the total, eligible and ineligible farmer suicides across eighteen districts of these two regions. Besides computing the annual trends for divisions and districts the exercise on district specific annual share in the total district suicides between 2001 and 2018 and the district specific share of

suicides in the annual total suicides of a particular division and region of Marathwada and Vidarbha are also carried out. Marathwada and Vidarbha are known as most affected regions of farmer suicides. This is evident not only in the state but also at the all India level. Even the international media and academics have taken the cognizance of it. Suicide records that are sent from respective district police records are gathered at the SCRB operated form the CID headquarter. Then onwards this statistics forms the source of NCRB suicide data at all India level. The data that are used for the present analysis are for about two decades consisting from Jan. 2001 to July 2018. Annual suicide mortality rates for the categories of total, eligible and ineligible farmers suicides are computed based on the per lac cultivator population obtained from the respective census records of 2001 and 2011. For the number of cultivators the information used is from population census and not from the agricultural census. There may be multiple operational holdings in the name of one cultivator or one unit of operational holding may also be operated by more than one cultivator. For describing the number of cultivators the agricultural census takes into account the number of cultivable units. This misleads in determining the number of cultivators in a particular agricultural area. Therefore purposely the use of cultivator data from agricultural census is avoided. Also the census data bifurcate between the cultivators and agricultural labourers which in the Indian rural set-up are two distinct categories. Those cannot be clubbed together. Therefore the population census data on number of cultivators appear more realistic than the agricultural census data. The issue of eligible and ineligible classification of farmer suicides in Maharashtra is purely an administrative one. State gives an ex-gratia amount of rupees one lac to a family of a deceased. If a deceased farmer didn't have the 7/12 abstract in his/her name then the revenue department expecting the presumptive ownership of land through 7/12 abstract does not accept such person as a farmer. The state administrative machinery is insistent on 7/12 land abstract. Thus the family of such deceased farmer (without 7/12 abstract) is deemed ineligible for an ex-gratia amount of rupees one lac. Naturally the suicide by such farmer is termed as an ineligible farmer suicide. Presumptively such deceased person does not stand as farmer. Therefore the substantial portion of total farmer suicides in Maharashtra is classified as the ineligible farmer suicides. This; besides the social tendency of Indian people not to report the act of suicide leads to the underreporting of suicides which further underreports the farmer suicides in Maharashtra. Mainly the suicides are not reported due to the shame or social status. Another complexity of trend analysis both for the farmer and non-farmer suicides is that it is neither appropriate nor relevant on two grounds. One; that the suicides in India are underreported and two; that if one were to agree with the view that the cultivator population provided by the census is an overestimation then it implies that farmer suicides rates in the country would be a gross underestimation (Shrijit Mishra; 2014).

II. Data, Sources and Methods:

First we need to look at the process of farmer suicides data consolidation. Village level information on suicide is registered at the nearest police station. This is through an FIR. The same is consolidated at the divisional commissioner office. It is based on the data supplied by the district collectorate. Then the divisional commissioner office sends the district wise statistics to the State Crime Records Bureau (SCRB). It is a separate department operated from the state Crime Investigation Department (CID) at its headquarters. For Maharashtra it is located at Pune. Deputy Commissioner level police officer heads this department. From there the data goes to the NCRB. Since 1995 NCRB compiles the data on profession wise suicides by gender across states in the country. Among professions for those self-employed in cultivation and those who are owner or tenant cultivators but are not agricultural labourers are termed as farmers. This for computing the suicide mortality rates is normalized with an equivalent population category obtained by combining the main and marginal category of workers in the census. This is available in the district census abstracts. The same data is used to compute the suicide deaths per one lac (Suicide Mortality Rate) cultivator population from Jan. 2001 to July 2018. This exercise is carried out for total, eligible and ineligible farmer suicides across eighteen districts of Marathwada and Vidarbha. Respectively the data for Aurangabad division are up to July 2018, for Amravati are up to March 2018 and that for Nagpur division the data are up to June 2018. The total of eligible and ineligible suicide cases is always less than the total suicide cases. Because the enquiry on rest of the cases is shown pending. But for computing the SMR in the present paper we have taken into account the total farmer suicide cases and not just the total of eligible and ineligible suicide cases. SMRs for eligible and ineligible farmer suicides are separately calculated. Because the

main focus of the present paper rests on the complexity of eligible and ineligible farmer suicides from these two regions of Maharashtra. This is for across eighteen districts of Marathwada and Vidarbha region. Division wise data for eighteen districts of these two regions are obtained from the respective divisional Commissionerate of Aurangabad for Marathwada and from Amravati and Nagpur divisional Commissionerate for Vidarbha region respectively. For rest of the districts the data used are from SCRB while for all India and major suicide states the data used are from NCRB records for years. Looking at the local to national channel of suicide information broadly the source for entire data set is of NCRB. The methods of computing the SMR across categories of total, eligible and ineligible farmer suicides are cited in the end notes of this paper.

III. Review and Context:

Along with the frequent crop failures on account of bad weather and erratic monsoon, the rising cost of cultivation and drastic fall in prices during the glut are frequently experienced in the major farmer suicides affected states of India (Mohanty BB and Shroff Sangeeta; 2004). In 2016 the agricultural prices in Maharashtra had fallen much below the MSP. It was mainly on account of the glut in the market as there was a bumper crop of Chana, Tur and Soybeans. On an average the Indian farmers receive a meagre share of 32.50 per cent (ranging from 20 to 45 per cent) of the consumer's rupee paid for most of the agricultural commodities. Reduced margins for farmers from market continued to be one of the important causes for widespread rural indebtedness in India (Narayanamoorthy; 2018). This has further led to the debt trap and suicide by farmers (Narayanamoorthy; 2018). Besides this the frequent crop failures leads to the farm indebtedness. It happens to be the major cause for farmer suicides at the ground level (Shiva Vandana, Ashok Emani and A H Jafri, 1998; Deshpande R S; 2002). Decline in rural and agricultural investments, market imperfections, infrastructure and absence of effective state mechanism to deal with the drastic farm price falls are the factors that have contributed to the spurt in farmer suicides (Assadi Muzaffar; 1998, Revathy V; 1998, Vasavi A R; 1999; Mohankumar S and Sarma; 2006). Several studies covering the suicide affected states have attributed farmer suicides to cotton cultivation (C Shambhu Prasad; 1999). Common thread across these states is that all these are agriculturally commercial states. Many other studies attribute cotton to an increase in the cost of cultivation. It is mainly on account of IPM consumption by this crop besides the seed and fertilizer prices. Huge requirement of IPM in cultivation of cotton and high seed prices in Maharashtra have led to an increase in the cost of cultivation of this crop (A Vaidyanathan; 2006). Mostly the cotton cultivators across the Indian states cultivate Bt varieties. Initially these verities were propagated for higher yields. Naturally the crop performance of these varieties is determined by the availability, adequacy and reliability of irrigation. For instance in Gujarat the cultivation of Bt cotton is practiced on irrigated lands. They also have an access to indigenously developed varieties of seeds which are at a much lower prices than the prices charged by MNCs in Maharashtra (Vaidyanathan; 2006). There was a huge increase in the import of cotton after 1991. Due to the market integration the world cotton have been falling steadily while the increase in input prices has multiplied the cost of cultivation. The cotton farming across Marathwada and Vidarbha is done under rainfed conditions. Seed prices are also much higher than in Gujarat. In 2016 there was a severe pink bollworm attack on cotton which had destroyed almost the entire crop season across Marathwada and Vidarbha. Besides this about sixty lakh acres of crop spread across Marathwada and Vidarbha was abandoned. It was due to the spurious Bt seeds supplied by private seed companies in Maharashtra. Result was that the entire crop succumbed to bollworms attack. Farmers had to uproot the standing crops and burnt them. But the state officers were late to pay their visits to these farms. When these officers arrived for *panchanama* (survey) for state compensation in most of the cases there were no standing crops. Because the farmers had uprooted the crop before the state machinery had arrived. Therefore many cotton farmers automatically got excluded from the list of beneficiaries (Dnyandev Talule; 2020). Farmers also had to offer bribes for survey and recording the crop acerage for state compensation. Mainly these are the small and marginal cultivators and face unavailability of irrigation and uncertainty in cash crops (Shrijit Mishra; 2006). Cotton is not the only reason which causes negative returns to these farmers. During the rabbi season of 2016 farmers of Marathwada had a bumper produce of Chana, Soybeans and Tur. Naturally the prices of these crops had fallen to rock bottom. But the state procurement system was not in place. Suicide by farmers is not entirely the outcome of poverty. It is mostly the outcome of disillusionment on account of the persistent gap between expected and the actual returns from cultivation. Natural calamities and man-made factors like market imperfections and the politico economic negligence are the reasons for this gap to exist. All these aspects together make suicide by farmers a complex phenomenon. Most of the studies on farmer suicides in past have pointed out the existing farm debt burden (K C Suri; 2016, Dnyandev Talule; 2011). In 2012; 96.72 per cent of the suicide affected farmer households of Yavatmal district had strictly used their credit money for productive purposes. Such finding clears the illusion of misuse of credit money by farmers (Dnyandev Talule; 2013).

IV. Result and Discussion :

Region Profile and Suicide Trends:

Together the Marathwada and Vidarbha account for 52.31 per cent (20.99 and 31.32 per cent respectively) of the total state area of Maharashtra with a combine share in state population of 41.76 per cent (18.74 and 23.02 per cent). Besides 27.84 per cent (2.42 and 25.42 per cent) of Maharashtra's tribal population, 33.87 per cent of state's total drought stricken population lives in these two regions (7.21 and 26.66 per cent) (Kelkar; 2013). These regional characteristics of Marathwada and Vidarbha invite for special attention on the region specific development. Such regional characteristics when compared to rest of the Maharashtra bring out a huge development backlog (Kelkar; 2013). All sectors taken together the development deficit for Marathwada is 20.16 per cent while that the same for Vidarbha it is 48.30 per cent. 26.60 per cent of the SGDP of Maharashtra is contributed together by these two regions of Marathwada and Vidarbha (10.10 and 16.50 per cent) respectively. Respectively the SGDP per capita of Marathwada and Vidarbha region are 40824 and 52282 rupees. All sectors taken together the development deficit for Marathwada comes out as 20.16 per cent while that the same for Vidarbha it is 48.30 per cent. The overall development gap for Marathwada is 37.27 per cent while the same for Vidarbha it is 38.83 per cent. This is when compared to rest of the Maharashtra (Mitra and Shroff; 2007' Kelkar; 2013). With such a macro economic status predominantly the farmers of both these regions rely mainly on cash crops like Bt cotton, Soya beans and Tur. This is in striking contrast of the developmental characteristics of both the regions. Most of the GCA of Marathwada and Vidarbha under the commercial crops is rain fed. As in cotton cultivation the predominance is on Bt varieties but the yield levels of these varieties are irrigation determined. Unlike in the states like Gujarat the cultivation under irrigated conditions is almost impossible in both these regions. Public extension services and institutional mechanism in both the regions have least presence or failed to alert farmers about the high risk involved in cultivating Bt cotton under rainfed conditions (A Vaidyanathan; 2006). Such Agro-economic conditions tend to generate multiple reasons for precipitating the agrarian crisis in these regions and thereby the highest number of suicides by the farming community in Maharashtra.

Division wise Suicide Trends Across Marathwada and Vidarbha:

A total of 23701 farmers form Marathwada and Vidarbha have ended their life through suicide. This is for a period between Jan. 2001 and July 2018. Agriculturally both these regions are water starved. While for irrigation Marathwada depends on the upstream riverine western Maharashtra to release water for the dams located at the downstream river flows of Marathwada. Vidarbha's irrigation potential remains vastly untapped. The gap between the irrigation potential and attainment for Vidarbha is one of the largest. In addition to this the siltage of about 7000 ancestral Malgujari tanks in Vidarbha has pushed them out of use. Therefore often when the monsoon fails and there is a drought the suicide death toll also increases. Year 2014 was a drought year in Maharashtra and the number of suicides from both these regions had also increased.



Source: Divisional Commissioner offices, Aurangabad, Amravati and Nagpur division records on farmer suicides for years.

In 2018-19 the drought was back with greater severity. Both the kharif and rabbi sowing

had failed. Along with drought there was a pink bollworm attack on cotton which destroyed a huge tracts of crops across Marathwada and Vidarbha. Almost every plant on the field was affected by bollworms. Erratic monsoon of 2014 and the spurious Bt seeds followed by glut and price decline in 2015-2016 resulted in a multiple triennium agrarian crisis for across the vast tracts of the state that ultimately covered both these regions.



Source: Divisional Commissioner offices, Aurangabad, Amravati and Nagpur records on farmer suicides for years.



Source: Divisional Commissioner offices, Aurangabad, Amravati and Nagpur division records on farmer suicides for years.

There is no question of plateauing of land yield levels in Marathwada or Vidarbha. The crop yield levels for almost all crops of both the regions have never reached the national average. Availability of nonfarm employment in Marathwada and Vidarbha is a distant dream. Another part of the country with which the agrarian situation of these regions is

comparable is Bundelkhand in central India. There the every drop of water is a luxury. Farm crisis of 2014-2016 had two dimensions. One; that the absence of drought mitigation mechanism and two; the market failure and the lack of on time state intervention which could not put in place the procurement mechanism. Result was that the farmers had to sell their produce to the trades at APMCs which was at the prices 10 to 15 per cent below the MSP. Agricultural development and livelihood concerns of farmers are interdependent dimensions of rural livelihood. When first is not met with; the negative outcome on second is a given certainty. All these aspects are applicable to Marathwada and Vidarbha in their entirety. Therefore as long as these complexities are not addressed to the answer to the problem would be as good as; 'no light at the end of the tunnel'.



Source: Divisional Commissioner offices, Aurangabad, Amravati and Nagpur division records on farmer suicides for years.

Eligible Versus Ineligible Farmer Suicides:

Title to land in India is presumptive and not the conclusive one (Wadhwa D C; 1989). The 7/12 abstract of agricultural land is a crucial revenue department document. It is maintained by a village level revenue officer called *'patwari'*. It carries the landowner's name and for revenue administration it is the legal instrument that declares him/her as the farmer or non-farmer. Therefore only one who has an authentic 7/12 abstract of land in his name stands as a farmer. Because he is a legitimate landowner. Only such person is treated as a farmer. For the police and revenue administration those who do not enjoy such a legal and presumptive ownership title of land are not farmers. It happens in case when one commits suicide and does not possess the 7/12 abstract in his name. Then such suicide cannot be recorded as a
farmer suicide. Several cultivators cultivate on the leased in land or often the land is in the name of some other elderly person in the family like father or the grandfather.



Source: Divisional Commissioner offices, Aurangabad, Amravati and Nagpur division records on farmer suicides for years.



Source: Divisional Commissioner offices, Aurangabad, Amravati and Nagpur division records on farmer suicides for years.

It is the common practice in a typical Indian rural family setup. Another complexity is that having land in the name of a female is almost impossible. But the district suicide lists are not exclusive of female names which is a bitter truth. Districts' suicide lists bring out that several women have also (female farmers) committed suicides. This also leads to the complexity of eligible and ineligible farmer suicides. It is purely an administrative aspect. Legal title of profession of a deceased person needs to be established whether he was a farmers or not. For this purpose the crucial document used is 7/12 abstract. Therefore only a family of a deceased who had 7/12 abstract in his name is treated deemed eligible for an ex-gratia compensation of rupees one lac. Such complexity in Maharashtra leads to the declaration of farmer suicides as an eligible and ineligible farmer suicide. Because of the pre-condition of 7/12 abstract the proportion of ineligible farmer suicides across districts is considerably high. In other states the suicide compensation amount is also higher than Maharashtra. For example in Punjab the farmer suicide compensation is raised from two to three lac. For the period between Jan 2001 and July 2018 on an average 32.76, 54.77 and 47.99 per cent of the total suicides respectively from Aurangabad, Amravati and Nagpur division of Maharashtra were declared as ineligible farmer suicides. This is not a small proportion. These divisions cover the districts from Marathwada and Vidarbha. This is how a large number of suicides are taken out from the list of farmer suicides. Naturally the families of those farmers were deemed ineligible for state compensation of rupees one lac. Already in India many suicides remain unreported. This complexity of classification in Maharashtra dwarfs the figure further by applying an illogical administrative logic of defining the suicide as 'farmer and non-farmer suicide'. It is mostly for saving the compensation amount and also to show the less number of suicide by farmers in Maharashtra.





Source: Divisional Commissioner offices, Aurangabad, Amravati and Nagpur division records on farmer suicides for years.



Source: Divisional Commissioner offices, Aurangabad, Amravati and Nagpur division records on farmer suicides for years.

records on farmer suicides for years.



Figure 9: Division Wise SMR For Illegible Farmer Suicides From Marathwada and Vidarbha Region of Maharashtra 2001-2018

Source: Divisional Commissioner offices, Aurangabad, Amravati and Nagpur division records on farmer suicides for years.

Figure 10: Division wise Annual Trends SMR for Eligible Farmer Suicides from Marathwada and



Source: Divisional Commissioner offices, Aurangabad, Amravati and Nagpur division



Source: Divisional Commissioner offices, Aurangabad, Amravati and Nagpur division records on farmer suicides for years.

Suicide Mortality Rates (SMR) for ineligible farmer suicides in Amravati division are one of the highest (687.53). This is followed by Nagpur (203.28) and Aurangabad division (74.84) respectively. Terming a substantially large number of farmer suicides as ineligible suicides brings down the total number of farmer suicides in Maharashtra. This has two implications. One; that the suicide being an ineligible farmer suicide the family of a deceased farmers is stripped of the benefit of an ex-gratia amount of rupees one lac and two; that the suicide being an illegal act post suicide the family has to face police investigation. Since the Mental Healthcare Bill 2017 is passed in the Parliament, the act of suicide in India is decriminalised. But the family of a deceased person has to face investigation. Our field experiences reveal that in several cases even if the suicide is recorded as genuine farmer suicide even then the family has to pay some amount of bribe to process the case of ex-gratia payment by the revenue department.

Suicide mortality rates for ineligible farmers suicides for the district of Usmanabad in Marathwada region is the highest (132.60). It is followed by Beed (119.37). Beed is one of the most drought stricken districts of Maharashtra. Usmanabad also share similar agrarian conditions. Between Jan 2001 and July 2018 in Amravati division of Vidarbha the SMR for ineligible farmer suicides remained in the range of 1058.62 and 849.72. Almost for all western Vidarbha districts the SMR for ineligible farmer suicides remained

higher range than any other district from Maharashtra. For eastern Vidarbha the SMR for ineligible farmer suicides during the same period was in the range of 609.53 and 22.47. Typically the proportion of ineligible farmer suicides in western Vidarbha brings out the case of defects in definition and classification of farmer suicides.



🗖 Aurangabad 📄 Amravati 📑 Nagpur

Source: Divisional Commissioner offices, Aurangabad, Amravati and Nagpur division records on farmer suicides for years.

Trends of Eligible Versus Ineligible Farmer Suicides from Marathwada and Vidarbha Region of Maharashtra:



Source: Divisional Commissioner office, Aurangabad division records on farmer suicides for years.

Incidences of ineligible farmer suicides in western Vidarbha are comparatively higher

than eastern Vidarbha districts. During 2001 and 2018 the highest SMR for ineligible farmer suicides in western Vidarbha was recorded in Amravati district. It was 1058.62. In the receding ranks the districts were; Akola (849.72), Yavatmal (801.74), Wasim (591.43) and Buldhana (376.30) respectively. The first farmer suicide in Maharashtra was recorded in Yavatmal district in 1986. It was on March 19, 1986; over three and a half decades have passed. A farmer from Yavatmal district named Sahebrao Karpe Patil along with his four children (respectively two sons and two daughters) and a wife had committed suicide. Farmer had killed his entire family including himself by consuming the rat killer (Zink Phosphate). The farmer, Sahebrao Karpe Patil, had lived in a small village called Malkini, Post, Dahiwad from Yavatmal district. His crop had failed the previous year. That pushed him into a debt trap. Due to which he could not pay his electricity bill. He had been warned that power supply would be disconnected soon, which would ruin his current crop as well. With no way out, he killed himself and his family. He knew that suicides in his remote village would not draw attention. So, he went to Duttapur in Wardha District so that the government took note.

Eastern Vidarbha is a region having more of tribal population where the predominance of commercial cultivation like cotton is almost nil. Obviously the debt burden remains less and the toll of suicide is also at the lower side. But from eastern Vidarbha districts also the incidence of ineligible farmer suicides is not non-cognizable. For the period between Jan 2001 and July 2018 the SMR for ineligible farmer suicides in Wardha district of eastern Vidarbha remained in the range of 609.53 and 22.42. In other districts the SMR for ineligible farmer suicides in eastern Vidarbha remained in the order of; Bhandara (285.02), Nagpur (238.29), Chandrapur (111.45) and Gondia (79.02) respectively. For Marathwada the SMR for ineligible farmer suicides was 132.60 in Usmanabad and 119.37 in Beed district. This was followed by Nanded (88.04), Parbhani (52.52), Latur (52.00), Aurangabad (37.59), Hingoli (33.73) and Jalna (28.38) district. The land ownership is 7/12 abstract (the revenue department record) determined and many of the cultivators do not possess the same. Because often the family land is not legally distributed in the names of all cultivator members. Hence a person despite being a cultivator but having no legitimate ownership of land and the 7/12 abstract in his name does not deem fit to be termed him as the farmer. It is often experienced in case of cultivation on leased in land.

The suicide by such a person is classified as an ineligible farmer suicide. Not having land in the name of every cultivator or the family member is a typical common practice in Indian countryside. In most of the families the land ownership is patriarchy determined. Most often females do not have land in their name. Because due to the marriage she comes from other family. In the maternal family also often the land is not recorded in the name of a daughter. Because one or the other day when she gets married has to leave her maternal family. Legally it is wrong but is commonly practiced in the society. The lists of farmer suicides are not exclusive of female and the possibility of having the 7/12 abstract in the name of a deceased female farmer is almost nil. Naturally most of the female farmer suicides are declared as ineligible farmer suicides.



Source: Divisional Commissioner office, Amravati division records on farmer suicides for years.



Source: Divisional Commissioner office, Nagpur division records on farmer suicides for years.



Source: Divisional Commissioner office, Aurangabad division records on farmer suicides for years.



Source: Divisional Commissioner office, Amravati division records on farmer suicides for years.



Source: Divisional Commissioner office, Nagpur division records on farmer suicides for years.







Source: Divisional Commissioner office, Amravati division records on farmer suicides for years.





■AU ■JL ■PR ■HN ND ■BD ■LT ■US

Source: Divisional Commissioner office, Aurangabad division records on farmer suicides for years.



Source: Divisional Commissioner office, Amravati division records on farmer suicides for years.





Figure 22: District Wise Annual Share of Eligible Farmer Suicides in Total Farmer Suicides from Nagpur Division of Vidarbha Region in Maharashtra 2001-2018

Source: Divisional Commissioner office, Nagpur division records on farmer suicides for years.



Source: Divisional Commissioner office, Nagpur division records on farmer suicides for years.

District wise Suicide Trends Across Marathwada and Vidarbha:

A total of 6154 farmers from Marathwada have committed suicides between 2001 and 2018. For the same period the number for Vidarbha was 17547. Vidarbha comprises two revenue divisions respectively the Amravati and Nagpur. The total of farmer suicides from Amravati division for the same period was 13640 while that for the Nagpur division; the eastern Vidarbha it was 3907. By any index of quality of life these are not the small numbers.



Figure 24 : District wise Annual Total Farmer Suicides from Vidarbha Region of Maharashtra 2001-2018

Source: Divisional Commissioner offices, Amravati and Nagpur division records on farmer suicides for years.





Source: Divisional Commissioner office, Aurangabad division records on farmer suicides for years.

Besides this the possibility of going some suicides unreported cannot be ruled out. As per the number of farmer suicides from 2001 to 2018 the ranks for districts of Marathwada are respectively Beed (1681), Nanded (1132), Usmanabad (824), Parbhani (670), Aurangabad (630) and Jalna (459). There is a clear cut distinction between the western and eastern Vidarbha. Since the beginning of the problem of farmer suicides western Vidarbha districts have remained most vulnerable. Agriculturally these districts are also called as white gold belt of Maharashtra. It is mainly due to its history of cotton cultivation. Incidence of farmers suicides happens to be the highest in Yavatmal district. The first farmer suicide in Maharashtra was reported from Yavatmal district. May be the first in

India also. It was in March 1986. During the period of eighteen years of 2001 to 2018 a total of 4056 farmers from Yavatmal district have ended their lives by suicide. The ranks of rest of the western Vidarbha districts are; Amravati (3444), Buldhana (2528), Akola (2160) and Wasim (1452). By now it is well established fact that the predominance of cotton cultivation under unirrigated conditions has pushed these farmers into a low yield and debt trap conditions. For the same period Wardha district from eastern Vidarbha has recorded the highest number of (1606) farmer suicides and the figure of 722 for Nagpur district comes next to it. Obviously the districts of western Vidarbha also lead the figures for ineligible farmer suicides. The case of Yavatmal district is in striking contrast with other districts of Vidarbha and Marathwada. These districts are also known for their cotton cultivation. But in those districts the suicide rates are not as high as Yavatmal district. But the suicide figures of these districts are also cognizably high. Suicides in all these districts across Marathwada and Vidarbha have been taking place mostly due to the rural and agricultural credit problems (Parchure Rajas and Talule Dnyandev; 2012). On the lines of other suicide affected states in the country the agriculture of both these regions has been passing through a difficult stage. Such picture is strikingly evident since 1997. Crop yields per acre for the major commercial crops like Cotton, Soya beans, Tur and Sorghum cultivated in Yavatmal district are stagnant at 2.10, 2.56, 2.41 and 2.07 quintals (Parchure Rajas and Talule Dnyandev; 2012).



Source: Divisional Commissioner office, Aurangabad division records on farmer suicides for years.







Source: Divisional Commissioner office, Amravati and Nagpur division records on farmer suicides for years.



Source: Divisional Commissioner office, Aurangabad division records on farmer suicides for years.

Figure 29(a): District wise Annual Share of Farmer Suicides in the Annual Division Total Farmer Suicides of Amravati Division in Vidarbha Region of Maharashtra 2001-2018



Source: Divisional Commissioner office, Amravati division records on farmer suicides for years.

Ironically the source of credit mix for Yavatmal district comprised of money lenders, trades followed by the institutional sources. Average rate of interest charged on private credit was in the range of 36 and 120 per cent (Parchure Rajas and Talule Dnyandev; 2012). This was paid mainly by the suicide affected farm households. There are several reasons for agrarian distress and highest number of farmer suicides in Yavatmal district. Irrigation cover in this district is 5.12 per cent. In this 35.18 per cent is contributed by the state public investment while the share of farm household level private investment in irrigation is 64.82 per cent. Yavatmal is also a district with substantial share of tribal communities in its population. The case of Marathwada region of Maharashtra is also not different than Vidarbha. Districts of Beed, Nanded and Usmanabad are the most affected districts by farmer suicides. Irrigation conditions of Beed are one of the worst.

Every year most of the small and marginal farmers from this district migrate towards the sugar belt of western Maharashtra and the neighboring Karnataka state. This seasonal migration is mainly for sugarcane harvesting. Majority of the houses of several villages during such migration period (November to April every year) in this district are locked. State political economy of water dominated by predatory western Maharashtra sugar lobby keeps Marathwada at bay from drinking and irrigation water. Parts of Marathwada come under the downstream riverine of *Pravara, Godavari* and *Bhima* rivers. Most of the water of these rivers is dam-stored in the upper riverine western Maharashtra. Even during the drought period the release of water is opposed by upper riverine predatory sugarcane farming lobby. Barring an exception, most of the districts both from Marathwada and Vidarbha face acute water shortage. Mainly these are Beed, Nanded and Usmanabad in Marathwada and Amravati, Akola, Yavatmal, Buldhana, Wasim and Wardha respectively from Vidarbha. Strikingly the number



of suicide cases is also more from these districts. Most of the agriculture of Beed and Nanded district in Marathwada is rainfed.

Large flocks of cane harvesting workers migrate to the western Maharashtra and Karnataka belong to these two districts. Land, weather, irrigation and monsoon conditions of Beed are like Bundelkhand in Central India which is one of the most water starved regions of the country. Rural connectivity in both the regions is one of the weakest. Contrary to this the cropping pattern is dominated by cotton which needs assured water supply. But it is a distant dream. In Marathwada we find lowest number of suicide cases from Hingoli district. This district is carved out from Nanded. Identical pattern is observed in Gadchiroli, Gondia and Bhandara districts. This is the tribal belt of eastern Vidarbha where the dependence on commercial cultivation is minimum. Exact opposite is the picture of western Vidarbha districts of Amravati, Akola, Yavatmal, Buldhana, Wasim and Wardha. The entire region is known for cotton cultivation with the predominance of Bt varieties. It is since the introduction of Bt in the late 1990s. After 2008 debt waiver visibly the suicide death toll had declined. But in an immediate aftermath by 2012 again there was a spurt in the number of cases of farmer suicides. During that time the district of Yavatmal ranked highest in Maharashtra. Also it ranked the highest at all India level. Year 2014 was a drought year in Maharashtra and the suicide cases across districts had increased exponentially. On account of spurious Bat seeds in 2015 the farmers of both these regions had lost most of their cotton crops. The farm crisis had further aggravated by the glut in 2016. Maharashtra farmers then had experienced an unprecedented absence of state intervention and procurement mechanism. Cotton predominates the cropping pattern of Beed, Nanded and Usmanabad in Marathwada and the western Vidarbha districts where irrigation is one of the weakest. In cropping pattern of these districts the Bt varieties have a strong demonstration effect. In Gujarat the Bt varieties are developed by local seed manufacturers. The seeds in Gujarat are available at lower prices than in Maharashtra.



Source: Divisional Commissioner office, Amravati division records on farmer suicides for years.



Source: Divisional Commissioner office, Aurangabad division records on farmer suicides for years.



Source: Divisional Commissioner office, Amravati division records on farmer suicides for years.

In Gujarat the cotton is cultivated under irrigated conditions. Obviously the yields are more which benefit the farmers there. Contrary to this in Maharashtra for Bt seeds the farmers depend on verities developed and propagated by the MNCs. These MNCs charge higher prices for Bt seeds. Seed companies like Monsanto-Mahyco dominate the cotton seed supply in Maharashtra. Most often the cotton crops are lost on account of spurious seeds, bollworms and water shortage. Water shortage is mainly experienced on account of erratic monsoon. This makes the crisis more complex and the cultivation uneconomic one.

Pesticides and Suicides:

As per the police records most of the farmer suicides are committed by consuming pesticides. It is mainly because of the easy availability of pesticides in almost all cotton cultivating households. Because the crop of cotton has the highest IPM consumption ratio (about 64.00 per cent). Once the pesticide is consumed the death is almost certain. This is because the medical help is exceptionally available at village level. In 2012, 88.88 per cent of the suicide affected farmer households of Yavatmal district had no local access to the medical facility. 33.82 per cent of the district farmers had private visiting medical practitioner ferrying to their villages once or twice a week. These visiting practitioners are general practitioners for small illnesses. Therefore they need not necessarily to possess the medicines and facilities for treating pesticide poisoned farmers (Talule Dnyandev; 2013). Similar are the conditions of transport facilities that take more time to reach at the nearby private or public health Centre where one can avail medical treatment under such emergencies. Even after rushing the poisoned person at the public health centre

49

one cannot guarantee that the doctor would be available at the said public health Centre. Because many posts of public health officers in Vidarbha remain vacant. And even if the doctor is there then the medicines are not available. Hence even rushing the poisoned person to such place is a futile attempt to save his life.

Suicide Mortality Rates for Farmer Suicides:

Concentration of suicide by farmers in certain parts of Maharashtra is a complex issue. It is also a tragedy of the state farming community where majority of its politicians of every ruling party and state bureaucracy belong to the farming background. Not only the farmers but now the young generation in Maharashtra to get their demands approved from the state has in recent past resorted to suicide during their agitation. This is a typical example of Durkheimian case of an egoistic suicide (Durkheim Emili; 1897). When compared to other suicide affected states in the country the suicide rates for Maharashtra remained higher. This is mainly because of the high suicide headcount of Vidarbha followed by Marathwada. In the year immediate after the debt waivers of 2008 (ADWDRS-2008) the suicide rate in Maharashtra had declined. But was to increase the same in an immediate aftermath in 2010 which became one of the highest in 2012. In 2012 the district of Yavatmal in western Vidarbha was at the top of the list of farmer suicides at all India level. Again as a result of drought in 2014 the suicide rates for farmers in both the regions of Marathwada and Vidarbha had increased. This continued during the glut of Tur, Soya beans and Chana in 2016.



Source: Divisional Commissioner offices, Aurangabad, Amravati and Nagpur division records on farmer suicides for years.





Figure 34: Division wise Annual Trends of SMR for Farmer Suicides in Marathwada and Vidarbha Regions of Maharashtra 2001-2018

5 51

Source: Divisional Commissioner offices, Aurangabad, Amravati and Nagpur division records on farmer suicides for years.





Source: Divisional Commissioner office, Aurangabad division records on farmer suicides for years.

The percentage share of Maharashtra in the five major suicide prone states for a period from 2001 to 2015 remained in the range of 57.00–73.00 per cent (56.77 the minimum and 73.24 per cent the maximum). At all India level the share of these five states together was in the range of 16.54 and of 27.53 per cent. This was the highest among other states. A total of 2.35 lac Indian farmers have ended their life through suicide. Fluctuating trends in farmer suicides underline the negative relationship between the tragedy and the monsoon that often leads to droughts. Bumper crop and continued imports lead to the market glut

and fall in prices. Western Vidarbha districts of Amravati division remained one of the most affected by suicides. This was followed by Beed, Nanded and Usmanabad districts of Marathwada. From Jan. 2001 to July 2018 a total of 23701 farmers of these eighteen districts from Marathwada and Vidarbha have committed suicides. Together 83.74 per cent of the state's total farmer suicides were committed together from Marathwada and Vidarbha. Respectively for the period between Jan 2001 and July 2018 the division wise SMR for farmer suicides in Aurangabad, Amravati and Nagpur remained in the range of .38-37.43, 4.70-124.24 and .32-41.85.



Figure 36: District wise Annual SMR for Marathwada Region of Maharashtra 2001-2018

Source: Divisional Commissioner office, Aurangabad division records on farmer suicides for years.

Significant complexity of suicide by farmers in Maharashtra is an administrative classification of suicides as the eligible and ineligible farmer suicides. It is therefore the families of ineligible farmer suicides are deprived from the state compensation of rupees one lac. It is unjustifiable that despite being an exclusive cultivator with non-possession of the 7/12 abstract is assumed to be the non-farmer. The suicide by such cultivator is declared as an ineligible one. Suicide prone areas of Maharashtra relatively have negligible irrigation support. Unlike Gujarat the Bt cotton in these districts is cultivated under rainfed conditions. Similarly the Bt seeds in Maharashtra are propagated by MNCs. Seed prices in Maharashtra are higher than locally developed varieties in the neighbouring state like Gujarat. As 33.87 per cent of the state's drought stricken population lives in Marathwada and Vidarbha they need special attention. About twenty

thousand villages across twenty districts of Maharashtra are always water starved. Majority of them belong to Marathwada and Vidarbha. Water shortage is experienced even during the normal average monsoon year. Price distortions in last twenty years on account of high subsidies by the US and low import tariffs in India coupled with the failure of procurement mechanism made it more pitiable for these farmers. Poor state agricultural extension services and predominance of non-institutional credit mechanism in rural financial market are evident of the withdrawal of state from rural and agricultural scenario. To add to this; 2004, 2010, 2014 and 2018 turned out to be the rain deficit years. This was followed by cotton bollworm attack and spurious Bt seeds in 2015. The market glut of Tur, Soya beans and Chana in 2016 made the crisis more acute. This nosedived the prices to one of the lowest levels. Besides this the burden of obligatory social and family expenditure continues. This invites multipronged strategy to address the larger agrarian crisis. The state cannot withdraw from the rural and agricultural scenario. We have many examples of industrial credit rollover and large amount of NPAs of industrial lending. But no legal action for recovery is in place. Adequate attention on Yield, Price, Credit and weather, health, life, crop and cattle insurance besides improving water availability and rural electrification will facilitate the long pending agricultural diversification. Sell at prices below the MSP is not a new phenomenon. On time intervention through procurement mechanism during the glut should not fail. Public health Centres with adequate staff, medicines and treating facilities call for an immediate attention. This will facilitate the treating of poisoning cases. Even the rural family set up now has become nuclearised. Therefore the socio-psychological support by NGOs would be the step forward in arresting the suicide death toll among farmers.

Agrarian distress in Marathwada and Vidarbha in last eighteen years (Jan 2001 to July 2018) has taken the toll of thousands of farming lives. Therefore the distress of such magnitude needs to be tackled on priority. It needs to be tackled by helping farmers of suicide prone areas in a way that will build productive and marketing capabilities. Mechanism of ensuring greater share for farmer in every rupee paid by the end consumer would be a step in helping not only the farmers but it would be a step forward in achieving the dream of doubling farm income in the times to come.

Source: Divisional Commissioner office, Amravati division records on farmer suicides for years.



Source: Divisional Commissioner offices, Amravati division records on farmer suicides for years.



Figure 38: District wise Annual Trends of SMR for Vidarbha Region of Maharashtra 2001-2018

V. Concluding Remarks:

Like the first farmer suicide in March 1986 with his four children and a wife from Yavatmal district it was during the same year in July 1986 that the first farmers suicide from Kerala was also reported. That was the beginning of the tragedy in India. He was a rubber

growing farmers. This coincided the beginning of the opening of the Indian economy in the late 1980s which became the national macro-economic approach in the 1990s. Then after the tragedy of farmer suicides continued for over a period of more than last three and a half decades. It has spread across the Indian states of Punjab, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh (now includes Telangana) and Madhya Pradesh. In fact conceptualizing and understanding the complexity of farmer suicides through which a person attempts to end his life is more than a complex process. This could be the reason that the suicide by farmers in India are still continuing while no solution is in sight. The sources of data on suicides are indicative that Maharashtra happens to be the most affected state by farmer suicides. The agricultural economy of this state is a typical combination of a vast drought stricken tracts. More than one-third (33.87 per cent) of the state's drought stricken population live in Marathwada and Vidarbha (respectively 7.21 and 26.66 per cent). These are known as the most suicide prone areas of Maharashtra. It is true not just at the state but at all India level. A total of 23701 farmers from Marathwada and Vidarbha have committed suicides. It is in last eighteen years since 2001. Recurrence of drought is almost a routine quinquennial phenomena of Maharashtra. Irrigation cover of Maharashtra is less than half of the national average. It is even less than that in the suicide affected regions of the state. Contrary to this the cropping pattern across suicide regions is dominated by the cash crops like cotton. The predominance of Bt varieties is a common practice. The moot question is that as to why the agriculturally commercial states are trapped in the complexity of farmer suicides. The way agriculture should have been targeted to arrest poverty has not happened in the past. It has its negative impact on the growth of this sector negatively. Agriculture growth in preceding four years has come down to 2.5 per cent from its earlier peak of 5.2 per cent in 2013-14. Paucity of market infrastructure, handling mechanism, post-harvest management and processing has arrested the export growth of Indian agriculture. The exports from agriculture have fallen from \$42.5 billion in 2013-14 and became negative during the two years of 2016-17. Post reforms market integration led to the increase in imports which resulted in a decline in export surplus. Increase in imports caused the glut and consequently the domestic prices for agriculture produce have nosedived. This happens to be the main reason for negative returns from cultivation for most of the crops. Especially it is true for the commercial crops like cotton. Besides this the government is saddled with massive FCI stocks. Agriculture for a long period is in need for structural reforms. This includes the marketing, abolition of essential commodities act, APMC reforms, future trading, negotiable warehouse receipts and to build commodity specific value chain on the lines of milk, etc. There is a dire need of compensating farmers' losses and revision of agriculture policy. The existing agricultural policy has a massive in-build consumer bias. In 2019 the central government had announced the package for Rs. 75000 crore. It was for 12.6 crore small and marginal farmers. In absolute terms it looked sizable. But when divided by the number of households to be covered, the amount became just Rs. 6000 per farmer family per year (Gulati; 2019). When compared to china and OECD countries it is clear that India has been implicitly taxing its farmers through restrictive trade and imperfect marketing. Contrary to this China supported its farming sector to the tune of \$232 billion and the OECD countries by \$235 billion. This was in the year 2016-17 alone. Looking at such a picture India needs drastic steps to rejuvenate its agriculture. Then only it would be possible to arrest the tragedies like suicides in the long term. Short term measures like debt wavers are proved to be the non-impacting one. This is evident from 2008 debt wavers and many state specific schemes then after. Recent recurrence of farmer suicides in Kerala and Maharashtra underlined the failure of such short term dole out programme. Penetration of crop insurance and irrigation remains to a limited extent. In Maharashtra the complexity of classification of farmer suicides as eligible and ineligible is an administrative apathy. This is the state which ranks first in the list of farmer suicides at national level. Such classification can only show the less number of farmer suicides by state farming community.

Conclusion that emerges from the entire narrative is that the state cannot withdraw from the rural and agricultural sector. Incomparable industrial NPAs have never been the hurdle of industrial credit rollover. Credit, insurance, electrification and on time market intervention such as the procurement at MSP can bring some solace for agriculture. Looking at the suicide prone areas of Maharashtra we find that both the Marathwada and Vidarbha are the vast cotton growing tracts. But the processing is totally absent in Marathwada and Vidarbha. Prevalence of private money lending is a proof for the state and institutional withdrawal. This has led to a prolonged agrarian distress that has taken more than 02.50 lac farming lives at all India level. The combine figure for Marathwada and Vidarbha for last eighteen years is 23701. By any measure of livelihood quality the suicide numbers are extremely cognizable. Besides the long term neglect of agriculture in past the annual combine fiscal provision on account of consumer subsidies and for the MGNREGS stands for Rs 244220 crore (respectively Rs. 184220 and 60000 crore). Expenditure on MGNREGS has increased the agricultural wages and therefore the cost of cultivation. The market glut due to the increasing imports and market imperfections have led to a drastic price decline. This resulted in accumulation of losses for cultivators. Restricting MGNREGS to drought years or linking it to agricultural operations would be the step in right direction. Collective efforts on the part of the state and centre both at the national macro and state level through a coordinated policy from inputs to post harvest and foreign trade management are must. This is must to arrest the tragedy in long term as the short term measures have already proved to be the inadequate one.

Notes:

- 1 The passing of the Mental Healthcare Bill 2017 of the Govt of India has decriminalized the suicide and the attempt to suicide since Jan. 2018 but the data on which the present paper is based pertains to the time period before the Act 2018 was implemented. Moreover the stigma and social shame around suicide is still prevalent.
- AUELI = Aurangabad Eligible Farmer Suicides, AMELI = Amravati Eligible Farmer Suicides, NGELI = Nagpur Eligible Farmer Suicides, AUINELI = Aurangabad Ineligible Farmer Suicides, AMINELI= Amravati Ineligible Farmer Suicides and NGINELI = Nagpur Ineligible Farmer Suicides.

3. Abbreviations;

 Au=Aurangabad, JL=Jalna, PR=Parbhani, HN=Hingoli, ND=Nanded, BD=Beed, LT=Latur, US=Usmanabad, AM=Amravati, AK=Akola, YT=Yavatmal, BL=Buldhana, WS=Wasim, NG=Nagpur, WA=Wardha, BH=Bhandara, GN=Gondia, CH=Chandrapur and GD=Gadchiroli. These are the districts from Marathwada and Vidarbha regions of Maharashtra and the present paper is based on the farmer suicides data for these districts.

- ii AP=Andhra Pradesh, MH=Maharashtra, KA=Karnataka, MP=Madhya Pradesh and KL=Kerala
- iii NCRB=National Crimes Records Bureau, SCRB=State Crime Record Bureau, CID=State Investigation Department, FIR=First Information Report
- 4. Suicide Mortality Rates for Total, Eligible and Ineligible Farmer Suicides across districts and divisions are Computed as following;

$$SMR \text{ for Total Farmer Sucides} = \frac{\text{Total Number of Farmer Suicides}}{\text{Cultivator Population}} \times 1,00,000$$

$$SMR \text{ for Eligible Farmer Sucides} = \frac{\text{Number of Eligible Farmer Suicides}}{\text{Cultivator Population}} \times 1,00,000$$

$$SMR \text{ for Ineligible Farmer Sucides} = \frac{\text{Number of Ineligible Farmer Suicides}}{\text{Cultivator Population}} \times 1,00,000$$

Annexure:



Source: NCRB for years.





Per Cent Trend

Source: NCRB for years.





Source: NCRB for years.





Source: NCRB for years.





Source: NCRB for years.

Figure 6: Individual State's Share in the Annual Total Farmer Suicides in Major Suicide Affected States of India 2001–15









Source: NCRB for years.



Figure 8: Proportion of Farmer Suicides of Major Five State Total in all India Farmer Suicides 2001–15

Source: NCRB for years.

References:

- 1. A Narayanamoorthy (2018), Post Harvesting Requirements for Reducing the Gap Between What Consumers Pay and Farmers Receive, Indian Journal of Agricultural Economics, Vol. 73, No. 03, July-Sep. 2018 (Conference Number) PP, 421-430.
- 2. A Vaidyanathan (2006), Farmers' Suicides and the Agrarian Crisis, Economic and Political Weekly, Vol. XXXXI, No. XXXVIII, ISSN: 0012-9976, OCLC: 46735231, Sep. 23, 2006, PP. 4009-4016.
- **3.** Assadi Muzaffar (1998), Karnataka Farmer's Suicides: Signs of Distress in Rural Economy, Economic and Political weekly, April, 4 1998, Vol. XXXIII, No. IV, ISSN: 0012-9976, OCLC: 46735231, PP. 747-748.
- **4.** B.B Mohanty and Sangeeta Shroff (2004), Farmers Suicides in Maharashtra, Economic and Political Weekly, Vol. XXXXVI, No. XXXXXII, ISSN: 0012-9976, OCLC: 46735231, Dec. 2004, PP. 5599-5606.
- 5. C Shambhu Prasad (1999), Suicide Deaths and Quality of Indian Cotton: Perspectives from Technology and Khadi Movement, Economic and Political Weekly, Vol. XXXIV, No. V, ISSN: 0012-9976, OCLC: 46735231, PP. RE. 12-RE. 21.
- **6.** C.S. Prasad (1999), Suicide Death and Quality of Indian Cotton: Perspectives from History of Technology and Khadi Movement, Economic and Political Weekly, Vol.

XXXIV, No. V, ISSN: 0012-9976, OCLC: 46735231, Jan. 30, 1999, PP. 12-21.

- D C Wadhwa (1989), Guaranteeing Title to Land in India: A Preliminary Study, Economic and Political Weekly, Vol. XXIV, No. XXXXI, ISSN: 0012-9976, OCLC: 46735231, October 14, 1989, PP. 2323-2334.
- Dipankar Basu, Debarshi Das, Kartik Mishra (2016), Farmers' Suicides in India: Trends across Major States, 1995-2011, Economic and Political Weekly, Vol. XXXXXI, No. XXI, ISSN: 0012-9976, OCLC: 46735231, May 21, 2016, PP. 61-65.
- 9. Dnyandev C. Talule (2020), Farmer Suicides In Maharashtra, 2001-2018: Trends Across Marathwada and Vidarbha, Economic and Political Weekly, Vol. LV, No. XXV, ISSN: 0012-9976, OCLC: 46735231, PP. 116-125.
- Dnyandev Talule (2011), Farmers' Suicides in Maharashtra: A Deceased Household Level Study of the Nine Suicide Prone Districts, The Indian Economic Journal, Special Issue, Dec. PP – 97 – 119, ISSN: 0019-4662, RNI Regn. No. 46913/87.
- **11.** Dnyandev Talule (2013), Political Economy of Agricultural Distress and Farmers' Suicides in Maharashtra, International Journal of Social Science and Interdisciplinary Research, Vol. II (2), Feb. 2013, PP. 95-123.
- 12. Emile Durkheim (2013/Originally Published in 1897), Suicide: A Study in Sociology
- **13.** GoI (National Crime Records Bureau), For Years.
- **14.** GoM (2013), Vijay Kelkar (Chairman), High Powered Committee on Balanced Regional Development Issues in Maharashtra, GoM, Planning Department, Mumbai.
- **15.** GoM (State Crime Records Bureau), For Years.
- 16. Gulati Ashok (20198), A Race to Atone for Neglect of the Farmer, the Indian Express, Vol. XX: No. 1076, RNI.46944/87, Reg. No. RP/RNP/PNE/11/2000, Dt. 19.02.2019, PP. 09.
- 17. Mohanty BB and Sangeeta Shroff (2004), Farmer's Suicides in Maharashtra, Economic and Political Weekly, Vol. XXXXV, No. XXXI, ISSN: 0012-9976, OCLC: 46735231, Dec. 2004, PP. 5599-5606.

- Parchure Rajas and Dnyandev Talule (2012), Agrarian Distress and Farmer Suicides in Yavatmal District, NABARD Study, Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics (Deemed to be University), BMCC Road, Pune, 411 004.
- **19.** R.S. Deshpande (2002), Suicide by Farmers in Karnataka: Agrarian Distress and Possible Alleviatory Steps, Economic and Political Weekly, Vol. XXXVII, No. XVI, ISSN: 0012-9976, OCLC: 46735231, June29, 2002, PP. 2601-2610.
- 20. Revathy V (2002), Farmer's Suicides : Missing Issues, Economic and Political Weekly, Vol. XXXIII, No. XX, ISSN: 0012-9976, OCLC: 46735231, June 29, 2002, PP. 1207.
- 21. S Mohankumar and R K Sarma (2006), Analysis of Farmer Suicide in Kerala, Economic and Political Weekly, Vol. XXXXI, No. xvi, ISSN: 0012-9976, OCLC: 46735231, April 22, 2006, PP. 1549-1558.
- 22. S Mohankumar and R K Sharma (2006), Analysis of Farmer Suicides in Kerala, Economic and Political Weekly, Vol. XXXXI, No. XVI, ISSN: 0012-9976, OCLC: 46735231, April, 22, 2006, PP. 1553-1558.
- 23. Shiva Vandana, Ashok Emani and A H Jafri (1998), Globalization and Threat to Seed Security: Case of Transgenic Cotton Trials in India, Economic and Political Weekly, ISSN: 0012-9976, OCLC: 46735231, March 06, 1999, Special Issue, PP. 601-613.
- 24. Shrijit Mishra (2006), Farmers' Suicides in Maharashtra, Economic and Political Weekly, Vol. XXXXI, No. XVI, ISSN: 0012-9976, OCLC: 46735231, April 2006, PP. 1538-1545.
- **25.** Shrijit Mishra (2014), Farmers Suicides in India, 1995-2012: Measurement and Interpretation, Asia Research Centre Working Paper, London School of Economics and Political Science, London, United Kingdom.
- 26. Siddhartha Mitra and Sangeeta Shroff (2007), Farmers' Suicides in Maharashtra, Economic and Political Weekly, Vol. XXXXII, No. XXXXIX, ISSN: 0012-9976, OCLC: 46735231, Dec. 8, 2007, PP. 73-77.

- Suri K C (2006), Political Economy of Agrarian Distress, Economic and Political Weekly, Vol. XXXXI, No. XVI, ISSN: 0012-9976, OCLC: 46735231, PP. 1523-1529.
- **28.** Vasavi, A R (1999), Agrarian Distress in Bihar, Economic and Political Weekly, Vol. XXXIV, No. XXXII, ISSN: 0012-9976, OCLC: 46735231, Aug. 07, 1999, PP. 2263-2268.

Acknowledgement : The present paper is a partial outcome of the research work being carried out for the Major Research Project funded by the Indian Council Social Sciences Research (**ICSSR**), New Delhi.

3

Farmer's Income and Consumption Pattern in Drought Affected Blocks of Western Maharashtra (India)

Dr. M. S. Deshmukh¹, Dr. Satish Vyavahare²

Abstract:

The present paper deals with income and consumption pattern of farmers in selected blocks of drought prone region in western Maharashtra. Drought adversely affects the income and consumption pattern of farmers in general sample area of Western Maharashtra in particular. The income from livestock is major part of farmer's income. The monthly per capita income earned from livestock of Jat block is 31.9%, Atpadi block is 39.3 %, Sangola is 32% and Mangalwedha block is 31.9 % of the total income in the sample households of western Maharashtra. From the analysis we got into conclusion that the monthly per capita expenditure on food items in Jat Block is higher (63%) it means that non food expenditure is very low (37%) as compared to other blocks of sample households. Atpadi block has highest average propensity to consume (APC) i.e. 0.64 while Sangola block has lowest (0.39) it suggests that rate of savings of Sangola is much higher of Rs 2060 and Atapadi is lowest of Rs. 694 as compared to other blocks in sample blocks. The average monthly per capita income of Vasud is higher i.e. Rs. 4376 these households spend on an average monthly per capita expenditure is Rs. 1353 and because of that average propensity to consume (APC) is very low (0.31) and saving is Rs. 3023. The saving pattern of Tipehali village is high as compare to other villages. The Gini co-efficient index of income of all the sample farmers in study area is 0.39. Hence there is inequality in distribution of income of sample households in drought prone area of western Maharashtra.

Keywords : Asset Pattern, Income, Consumption, Drought, Gini Co-efficient Index

^{1.} **Professor,** Department of Economics, Shivaji University, Vidyanagar, Kolhapur (Maharashtra) E-Mail: deshmukhms@gmail.com Contact : +91 9869276265

^{2.} **Research Scholar,** Department of Economics, Shivaji University, Vidyanagar, Kolhapur (Maharashtra) E Mail: satishraj.1415@gmail.com Contact : +91 9921921415

I. Introduction :

This paper illustrates and focuses more on the income and consumption pattern of farmers in selected blocks of drought prone region in western Maharashtra. India is the second most populous country in the world with an estimated population of more than 1.2 billion. India's market potential is greater than that of many countries in Western Europe with more middleclass consumers and increasing local purchasing power. Since the liberalization bandwagon began to roll during the early nineties, India made a remarkable transition from being a supply controlled to a demand driven economy. With a large middle class population and their rising level of affluence, the country has one of the largest consumer markets across the world and is reckoned to be at par with the other Asian countries like China. India today offers tremendous market potential with a rapid growth rate in a wide range of products. It is one of the largest economies in the world in terms of purchasing power. India's faster economic growth since 1990s has raised per capita income (expenditure) and has significantly impacted its food consumption patterns by causing a change in the structure of food consumption patterns observed earlier during pre-reforms period. This raises the relevance of looking at the composition of India's food consumption basket. Consumption is an important activity performed by the household sector. Whatever personal income we obtained from different sources is either spent on consumption or saved. Presently, consumption is exacerbating inequalities. The consumption pattern in India is defined with the reference to the consumer expenditure survey by the NSSO. These surveys divide rural and urban population into different expenditure groups. The distribution of household/person and the per capita monthly expenditure on food and non-food items is given for each group.

This paper deals with the analysis of income and consumption expenditure pattern (in amount and quantity/physical term), both in the level and type of commodities consumption in India during the recent years. It examines whether there is change in the pattern of consumption expenditure over a period of time also large differences in the pattern of food and non-food consumption over the regions of the country.

II. Research Methodology And Data Base:

The present research paper is purely based on primary source of information, which is collected from the farmer respondents of drought prone area of Jat and Atpadi block of Sangli district and Sangola and Mangalwedha block of Solapur district in Western Maharashtra (Refer table-1). The primary data is collected through questionnaire, observations, field visits and focus group discussion with stake holders. The appropriate statistical tools are used todraw the proper inferences and study the following objectives.

> Objectives:

- 1. To study the income and consumption expenditure pattern of sample farmers in drought prone blocks in Western Maharashtra.
- 2. To analyze the Gini Co-efficient Index and Lorenz Curve for the distribution of Income among the sample households in Western Maharashtra.

> Statistical Tools:

The collected data is scrutinized, classified and tabulated in the light of the objectives and tools of data analysis. The tabulated data is analysed by using the suitable statistical tools like:

Gini Co-efficient Index³

Gini co-efficient or Gini index of concentration gives numerical expression of the results achieved from the Lorenz curve. This co-efficient can be obtained by using Trapezoidal Rule.The formula for estimating Gini co-efficient under Trapezoidal Rule is given below:

Ginico – efficient =
$$1 - \frac{\sum_{k=1}^{n} (P_k - P_{k-1}) (q_k + q_{k-1})}{n}$$

Where, p = Cumulative percentage of number of households

q = Cumulative percentage of household asset

^{3.} Lorenz M O (1905), Methods of Measuring the Concentration of Wealth, American Statistical Association, New Series No. 70, June- 1905.
n = Number of classes used

The data analysis has been carried out by making use of the computer software's such as Excel, and SPSS etc. Graphs were also draw to show the trends in some important variables.

Lorenz curve

The distribution of consumption expenditure among the households of farmers is analysed through frequency distribution and decile group analysis. Lorenz curve and Gini Co-efficient are used to analyse the level of inequality in the distribution of income among the sample households.

> Sample Size:

Agriculture is the core occupation of the people of Western Maharashtra. Researcher has selected randomly five percent villages from each sample block of the respective district and 20 farmers from each sample village has been interviewed. Researcher has used stratified sampling method as per 'Paisewari/Aanewari' and lowest 'Paisewari' villages were selected.

Blocks	Total Villages	Selected Villages	Name of the selected villages	Selected Farmers
		SA	NGLI DISTRICT	
Jath	125	6	(Tipehali, Gulvanchi, Dhavadwadi, Pratappur, Kosari, Birnal)	6*20 = 120
Atpadi	060	3	(Zare,Vibhutvadi,Pimpari)	3*20 = 060
	•	SOL	APUR DISTRICT	
Sangola	102	5	(Bamani, Akola, Vasud, Sangewadi, Kadlas)	5*20 = 100

Table No: 1

Sample Size of Selected Farmers in Western Maharashtra

Mangalwedha	081	4	(Marawade, Hivargao, Khomnal, Sharadnagar)	4*20 = 080
Total	368	18		360

III. Results and Discussion:

1. Block wise Classification of Farmers on the Basis of Source of Income in Study Area:

The following table no. 2 shows the block wise monthly per capita income in sample households. The monthly per capita income of the Jat block is Rs. 2721 in which about 36.3 % (Rs.987) of income is earned from agricultural crop production, followed by 31.9 % (Rs.868) from livestock, 11.5 % (Rs.312) from agricultural labour and 20.4 % (Rs.554) from non-agricultural income. However, the monthly per capita income of the Atpadi block is Rs. 1782 in which about 31.6 percent (Rs.564) income is earned from agricultural crop production, followed by 39.3 percent (Rs.701) from livestock, 17.8 percent (Rs.318) from agricultural labour and 11.2 percent (Rs.199) from non-agricultural income.

Table No. 2Block wise classification of farmers on the basis of source of income (In Rs)in study Area of Western Maharashtra

Sr	MPI	Jat (1)	Atpadi (2)	Sangli* (3=1+2)	Sangola (4)	Mangal- wedha (5)	Solapur* (6=4+5)
1	Agriculture/	987	564	775	1125	858	991
1	Cultivation	(36.3)	(31.6)	(34.4)	(35.8)	(35.2)	(35)
2	Livesteelr	868	701	784	1006	776	891
	Livestock	(31.9)	(39.3)	(34.8)	(32.0)	(31.9)	(31.9)
2	Agriculture	312	318	315	354	301	327
3	Labour	(11.5)	(17.8)	(14.0)	(11.3)	(12.4)	(11.7)

4	Non- Agriculture Income	554 (20.4)	199 (11.2)	376 (16.7)	660 (21.0)	500 (20.5)	580 (20.8)
Т	otal Income	2721 (100)	1782 (100)	2252 (100)	3145 (100)	2435 (100)	2790 (100)

Source: Field Survey, 2015-16

*Note: Figures in parentheses denoted the percentage, *= denoted Average*

Figure No.: 1

Classification of farmers as per source of income on the basis of block in sample Households



The income source from livestock was core part of farmers. The monthly per capita income is earned from livestock of Jat block is 31.9%, Atpadi block is 39.3%, Sangola is 32% and Mangalwedha block is 31.9% of the total income. The highest income source of Atpadi block is from livestock and followed by Agriculture. The monthly per capita income of Sangola block is Rs. 3145 in which about 35.8 percent (Rs.1125) of income is earned from agriculture, followed by 32 percent (Rs. 1006) from livestock, 11.3 percent (Rs.354) from agricultural labour and 21 percent (Rs.660) from non-agricultural income. Unlike Atpadi highest income source of Sangola block is Rs. 2435 in which about 35.2 percent (Rs.858) of income is earned from agriculture, followed by 31.9

percent (Rs.776) from livestock, 12.4 percent (Rs.301) from agricultural labour and 20.5 percent (Rs.500) from non-agricultural income. Income from agriculture is highest source of income for the Managalwedha block.

The monthly per capita income of Sangli distrcit is Rs. 2252 in which about 34.4 percent (Rs.775) of income is earned from agriculture, followed by 34.8 percent (Rs.784) from livestock, 14 percent (Rs.315) from agricultural labour and 16.7 percent (Rs.376) from non-agricultural income. Higher income source of Sangli district is livestock. The monthly per capita income of Solapur distrcit is Rs. 2790 in which about 35 percent (Rs.991) of income is earned from agriculture, followed by 31.9 per cent (Rs.891) from livestock, 11.7 per cent (Rs.327) from agricultural labour and 20.8 per cent (Rs.580) from non-agricultural income. We also found that agricultural production is the highest income source for Sangli district also unlike Solapur and whole western Maharashtra.

2. Block Wise MPCE of Food and Non-Food Items in Sample Area:

The following table no. 3 shows the block wise monthly per capita consumption expenditure on broad groups of food and non-food items. Monthly per capita consumption expenditure of jawar commodity of Jat block are Rs. 145 (11%), Atpadi block are Rs. 125 (10%), Sangola block are Rs. 133 (10%) and Mangalwedha block are Rs.150 (12%).

Table No. 3

Block/Block Wise MPCE of Food and Non-Food Items in Sample Area of Werstern Maharashtra

(In Rs)

МРСЕ	Jat (1)	Atpadi (2)	Sangli* (3=1+2)	Sangola (4)	Mangal- wedha (5)	Solapur* (6=4+5)
	1	A) Fo	od items	<u>.</u>	1	
1. Jawar	145 (11)	125 (10)	135 (11)	133 (10)	150 (12)	141 (11)
2. Wheat	26 (2)	21 (2)	24 (2)	37 (3)	25 (2)	31 (2)
3. Rice	15 (1)	16(1)	16(1)	19(1)	19 (2)	19 (1)
4. Other	3 (0)	4 (0)	4 (0)	6 (0)	3 (0)	4 (0)
5. Moong	9 (1)	12(1)	10(1)	11 (1)	13 (1)	12 (1)
6. Urad	2 (0)	4 (0)	3 (0)	3 (0)	3 (0)	3 (0)
7. Tur	9 (1)	8 (1)	8 (1)	9 (1)	11 (1)	10(1)
8. Other	2 (0)	2 (0)	2 (0)	3 (0)	2 (0)	2 (0)
9. Milk Liquid	267 (21)	118 (21)	193 (21)	123 (21)	152 (21)	137 (21)
10. Milk Products	25 (2)	22 (2)	23 (2)	27 (2)	25 (2)	26 (2)
11. Sugar	61 (5)	67 (5)	64 (5)	84 (6)	635 (5)	74 (6)
12. Salt, Proceed Food	22 (2)	24 (2)	23 (2)	27 (2)	25 (2)	26 (2)
13. Edible Oil	80 (6)	73 (6)	77 (6)	76 (6)	79 (6)	77 (6)
14. Egg, Fish, Meat	41 (3)	51 (4)	46 (4)	37 (3)	43 (3)	40 (3)
15. Vegetables	42 (3)	50 (4)	46 (4)	53 (4)	43 (4)	48 (4)
16. Fruits	30 (2)	41 (3)	35 (3)	35 (3)	33 (3)	34 (3)
17. Packaged &	17 (1)	22 (2)	20 (2)	24 (2)	20 (2)	22 (2)
Subtotal Food (A)	707 (63)	650 (53)	728 (58)	704 (53)	708 (57)	706 (55)
	171 (03)	B) Non	Food Items	10+(33)	100 (37)	100 (33)
18 Pan Tobacco						
Intoxicants	36 (3)	42 (3)	39 (3)	33 (2)	31 (2)	32 (2)

Journal of Shivaji University (Humanities and Social Sciences)

ISSN: 0368 - 4199

19. Fuel, Light	35 (3)	35 (3)	35 (3)	52 (4)	37 (3)	44 (3)
20. Kerosene	9 (1)	11 (1)	10(1)	11 (1)	10(1)	11 (1)
21. Transport,						
Communication &	45 (4)	49 (4)	47 (4)	60 (4)	50 (4)	55 (4)
Entertainment						
22. Clothing, Bed-	126 (11)	122 (10)	120 (10)	120 (10)	125(11)	127 (11)
ding & Footwear	130 (11)	123 (10)	130 (10)	139 (10)	155 (11)	137 (11)
23. Education	74 (6)	123 (10)	99 (8)	187 (14)	117 (9)	152 (12)
24. Medical	88 (7)	152 (12)	120 (10)	99 (7)	109 (9)	104 (8)
25. Sanitary						
Goods, Personal	35 (3)	44 (4)	40 (3)	42 (3)	39 (3)	40 (3)
Care, Cosmetics						
26. Other	13 (1)	13 (1)	13 (1)	13 (1)	12(1)	13 (1)
Subtotal Non Food	471 (27)	502 (47)	522 (42)	625 (17)	541 (42)	500 (15)
(B)	4/1 (57)	595 (47)	552 (42)	035 (47)	541 (45)	588 (45)
Subtotal Food &	1260(100)	1252(100)	1260(100)	1240(100)	1249	1204 (100)
Non Food (A+B)	1209(100)	1232(100)	1200(100)	1540(100)	(100)	1294 (100)

Source: Field Survey, 2015-16

*Note: Figures in parentheses denote the percentage, *= denote Average*

Figure No: 2

Block Wise Share of MPCE of Food and Non-Food Items in Study Area



The average consumption expenditure of Jawar commodity in Sangli and Solapur districts

is Rs.135 (11%) and 141 (11%) respectively and for wheat it is Rs. 24 (2%) and Rs. 31 (2%) respectively. The average consumption expenditure of rice, moong, urad, tur, milk and milk products, sugar, salt, processed food and edible oil of all blocks is constant. The consumption expenditure of subtotal of food items of Jat block is Rs. 797 (63%), Atpadi block is Rs. 659 (53%), Sangola block is Rs. 704 (53%) and Manglwedha block is Rs. 708 (57%). The percentage of monthly per capita expenditure of transport, communication & entertainment in the all tahshils is constant. Average monthly per capita expenditure on clothing, bedding and footwear of Jat block are Rs. 136 (11%), Atpadi block are Rs. 123 (10%), Sangola block are Rs. 139 (10%) and Mangalwedha block are Rs. 135 (11%). MPCE of education in Jat, Atpadi, Sangola and Mangalwedha block are Rs. 74 (6%), Rs. 123 (10%), Rs. 187 (14%) and Rs. 117 (9%) respectively. MPCE of education in Sangola block are high as compare to other blocks. Average monthly per capita consumption expenditure of non-food items of Jat block are Rs. 471 (37%), Atpadi block are Rs. 593 (47%), Sangola block are Rs. 635 (47%) and the Manglwedha block are Rs. 541 (43%).

The monthly per capita expenditure of food items in Jat Block is higher (63%) it means that non food expenditure is very low (37%) as compare to other blocks of sample households.

3. Block Wise Analysis of Income, Consumption, Saving and APC of Sample Farmers in Study Area:

The table no. 4 shows monthly per capita income of Sangola block is Rs.3400 is well off compared other blocks i.e. Jat (2939), Atpadi (1946) and Mangalwedha (2632). In the Jat block MPCE of food items is higher as compare to other blocks.

Table No. 4

Block/Block Wise Analysis of Income, Consumption, Saving and APC of Sample Farmers in Study Area

Sr. No	Indicators	Jat (1)	Atpadi (2)	Sangli* (3=1+2)	Sangola (4)	Mangalwedha (5)	Solapur* (6=4+5)
1	MPI	2939	1946	2443	3400	2632	3016
2	MPCE Food	797	659	728	704	708	706
3	MPCE Non Food	471	593	532	635	541	588
4	Food & Non Food	1269	1252	1260	1340	1249	1294
5	Saving	1670	694	1183	2060	1383	1722
6	APC	0.43	0.64	0.52	0.39	0.47	0.43

*Source: Field Survey, 2015-16 Note: *= denoted average*



Block Wise Saving and APC of Sample Farmers in Study Area



The monthly per capita consumption expenditure on non-food items of Sangola block is Rs. 635 is well off compared other blocks i.e. Jat (Rs.471), Atpadi (Rs.593) and Mangalwedha (Rs.541). The total monthly per capita consumption expenditure for Sangola block is Rs.1340 is high as compare to other blocks. APC of Atpadi block is high (0.64) and APC of Sangola block (0.39) is low it means that rate of saving of Sangola (Rs. 2060) is higher than the other blocks and rate of the saving of Atpadi block (Rs. 694) is lower compare to other blocks.

4. Village Wise Analysis of MPI, MPCE, Saving and APC of Sample Farmers in Study Area:

The table no. 7 shows that village wise analysis of MPI, MPCE and APC. The average monthly per capita income of Tipehali is Rs. 4376, these households spend an average monthly per capita expenditure of Rs. 840 on food and Rs. 513 on non-food items, leading to a total expenditure of Rs. 1353 and average propensity to consume (APC) is 0.31 and saving is Rs. 3023. The saving pattern of Tipehali village is high as compare to other villages.

Table No. 5

Selected Village Wise Analysis of Average Assets Value, MPI, MPCE, Saving and APC in Study Area

	Avonago			MPCE				
Village	Average Asset Value	MPI	Food	Non Food	Food & Non Food	Saving	APC	
Jat Block								
V1-Tipehali	600926	4376	840	513	1353	3023	0.31	
V2-Gulvanchi	239572	1923	783	424	1207	716	0.63	
V3-Dhavadwadi	288849	2391	641	432	1073	1318	0.45	
V4-Pratappur	334092	1467	625	481	1106	361	0.75	
V5-Kosari	302515	2107	581	414	995	1112	0.47	
V6-Birnal	399145	4060	1313	564	1877	2183	0.46	
Atpadi Block								
V7-Zare	228017	1862	659	587	1245	617	0.67	
V8-Vibhutvadi	255032	1738	595	587	1182	556	0.68	

Journal of Shivaji University (Humanities and Social Sciences)

ISSN: 0368 - 4199

V9-Pimpari	373193	1751	723	605	1328	423	0.76	
Sangola Block								
V10-Bamani	304385	2149	693	553	1246	903	0.58	
V11-Akola	351720	3551	694	720	1414	2137	0.40	
V12-Vasud	379883	4400	727	656	1383	3017	0.31	
V13-Sangewadi	323879	3314	623	667	1289	2025	0.39	
V14-Kadlas	337111	2316	785	582	1367	949	0.59	
		Man	galwedha	Block				
V15-Marawade	458513	2764	716	532	1249	1515	0.45	
V16-Hivargao	273880	2131	688	566	1254	877	0.59	
V17-Khomnal	374251	2301	683	488	1172	1129	0.51	
V18-Sharadnagar	387041	2546	745	576	1320	1226	0.52	

(Source: Field Survey, 2015-16)

Figure No. 4

Selected Village Wise analysis of MPI and MPCE of Sample Households

(In Rs)



The monthly per capita income of Vasud village is Rs. 4400, monthly per capita

expenditure is Rs. 727 on food and Rs. 656 on non-food items, leading to a total expenditure of Rs. 1383 and average propensity to consume is 0.31. Monthly per capita income of Vasud village (Sangola Block) is high as compare to other villages and MPCE of food and non-food items of Birnal village (Rs. 1877) is high. The monthly per capita income of Pratappur village is Rs. 1467. These households spend an average monthly per capita expenditure of Rs. 625 on food and Rs. 481 on non-food items, leading to a total expenditure of Rs. 1106 and an average propensity to consume is 0.75. The expenditure on food and non-food items of Pratappur village is very low and that the reasons APC is very high. The average monthly per capita income of Vasud is higher (Rs. 4376), these households spend an average monthly per capita expenditure is Rs. 1353 and that the reasons average propensity to consume is very low (0.31) and saving is Rs. 3023. The saving pattern of Tipehali village is high as compare to other villages.

The monthly per capita consumption expenditure of food and non food items of Kosari village (Rs. 995) is very low as compare other villages. The saving of Tipehali (Jat Block) and Vasud village (Sangola block) is high Rs. 3023 and Rs. 3017 respectively. The average propensity to consume of Pimpari (Atpadi block) and Pratappur village (jat block is high 0.76 and 0.75 respectively and APC of Tipehali (Jat block) and Vasud (Sangola block) village is very lower 0.31 and 0.31 respectively. Vasud village review higher monthly per capita income in Solapur district however, Pratappur village in Sangli district has lower monthly per capita income.

5. Gini Co-efficient index and Lorenz curve analysis of sample households on the basis of income pattern:

The following table shows that 36 households (10 %) have just 2.95 percent monthly per capita income of total income. The 72 households (20%) account for 7.08 % of total monthly per capita income.

Table No. 6

Gini Co-Efficient Index of Sample Households on the Basis of Income

MPI Range	No. of Households	Cumula- tive No. of Households	MPI	Cumulative MPI	Cumulative % of House- holds	Cumulative % of MPI	
Up to 960	36	36	27856	27856	10	2.95	
960 to 1250	36	72	38944	66800	20	7.08	
1250 to 1400	36	108	47287	114087	30	12.1	
1400 to 1667	36	144	55421	169508	40	17.98	
1667 to 1875	36	180	63888	233396	50	24.75	
1875 to 2083	36	216	72167	305563	60	32.41	
2083 to 2604	36	252	85153	390716	70	41.44	
2604 to 3333	36	288	104863	495579	80	52.56	
3333 to 4800	36	324	145559	641138	90	67.99	
Above 4800	36	360	301795	942933	100	100	
Individual	Percentage of Households		Cumulative % of In- come		Area Unde	Area Under Lorenz	
0	()		0	-		
1	0.	.1	0.03		0.001		
2	0.	.2	0.07		0.005		
3	0.	.3		0.12	0.0	10	
4	0.	.4		0.18	0.0	15	
5	0.	.5		0.25	0.0	21	
6	0.	.6		0.32	0.0	28	
7	0.	.7		0.41	0.0	37	
8	0.	.8		0.53	0.0	47	
9	0.	.9		0.68	0.0	60	
10]	1		1	0.0	84	
Total		-	-		0.3	0.304	
Area A =	0.196						
Gini =		0.392					

(Source: Field Survey, 2015-16)

The 180 households (50 percent) account for only 24.75 percent of total monthly per capita income. The 60 percent households accounted for only 32.41 percent income. The 80 percent households accounted only 52.56 percent income. This shows that there is inequality in distribution of average monthly per capita income of the sample households. The cumulative percentage of households and cumulative percentage of households monthly per capita income are same, it could be inferred that there is equality in distribution of income. In other words, had 10 percent of households have 10 percent of monthly per capita income there would have been equality. If there is perfect equality in the distribution of income, the Gini Co – efficient will be zero and it will be one there is perfect inequality. So the value of Gini co-efficient ranges from zero to one with a lower Gini ratio implying a reduction in inequality. In this study the Gini co-efficient index is 0.39.

Figure No: 5



Estimation of Lorenz Curve of Households on the basis of Income in Western Maharashtra

Lorenz curve coincides with the Egalitarian Line if every households have same income, that is, when there is complete equality in distribution of income. In the absence of

complete equality the curve will be away from the Egalitarian Line. So the level of inequality can be measured by the distance of the curve from Egalitarian Line. The greater the distance, the wider is the degree of inequality. In the above table 5 Gini coefficient index is 0.39 and the curve is a away from the Egalitarian line. So it may be concluded that the level of inequality in the distribution monthly per capita income among the households of farmers in Sangli and Solapur districts is not much higher but it is accountable.

IV. Conclusion and Policy Implications:

Drought adversely affects the income and consumption pattern of farmer's in sample area of Western Maharashtra. The income source from livestock was core part of farmers. The monthly per capita expenditure of food items in selected blocks is higher it means that non food expenditure like health, education, medical, entertainment, transport etc. is very low of sample households. The Gini co-efficient index of income was 0.39. Hence there is inequality in distribution of income of sample households in drought prone area of Western Maharashtra. The following measure will result in reduction in concentration of income and inequality. Inadequate resources on health and education in the poorest citizens drive extreme inequality. Therefore improvement in social sector investments under the public spending may reduce inequality to the greatest extent. Governments should initiate the schemes for protecting the right to a living wage. The basic needs of all workers should earn enough to support themselves and their families. There is a need of new economic policies that will improve the livelihood of all the people, not just those already well off.

V. References:

- 1. Rao V. U. M, Bapuji Rao B. (2016): Coping strategies for extreme weather in dry land agriculture, MAUSAM, Vol. 67, No. 1, January 2016.
- 2. Office of the Registrar General & Census Commissioner, India. (2011) http:// censusindia.gov.in. Date accessed: 06/09/2018.

- 3. M. O. Lorenz (1905): Methods of measuring the concentration of wealth. American Statistical Association, 9(70), 1-11.
- 4. Facundo Alvaredo, Lucas Chancel, Thomas Piketty, Emmanuel Saez, Gabriel Zucman. (2018): World Inequality Report, Paris School of Economics, World Inequality Lab, Grand Krü, Berlin.
- Fasoranti M. M. (2015), The determinants of consumption pattern among rural dwellers of Ondo state, European Scientific Journal, March edition, vol. 8, No. 6, e - ISSN 1857-7431
- 6. Uma Datta Roy Choudhury (1977): Changes in distribution of household income, consumption and wealth in rural areas. Economic & Political Weekly.
- Amit Basole (2015), Non-Food Expenditures and Consumption Inequality in India, Economic & Political Weekly, Vol. 50, Issue No. 36, 05 Sep, 2015.
- 8. S. Subramanian, D. Jayaraj (2015):. Growth and inequality in the distribution of India's consumption expenditure, Economic & Political Weekly: 1983 to 2009–10
- 9. Mark Aguiar, Mark Bils. (2015): Has consumption inequality mirrored income inequality? American Economic Review. 105(9), 2725–2756.
- 10. http://www.imd.gov.in/

4

"A Comparative Study of Global Unemployment Problems of Selected Countries"

Sushil Bhimrao Bansode¹

Abstract

Unemployment is a situation where a person of working age cannot get a job but would like to be a part of full time employment.Mental problems, physical problems, homelessness, poverty, isolation, family health problems, financial consequences etc are problems arise because of unemployment. Considering these unhealthy unemployment issues, the researchers are interested to find the reasons of high unemployment countries problems by comparing these countries with low unemployment countries.The studies main objective is, to compare highest and lowest unemployment countries in the world. The researcher select five high unemployment (Burkina Faso, Syria, Senegal, Haiti, Kenya) and five low unemployment (Qatar,Thailand, Belarus, Benin, Gibraltar) countries for the study. After comparison, the study concludes that every country's geographical and demographic profile is different hence every country has a different unemployment problem. And the high employment countries want to consider the strategies of low unemployment countries.

Keywords : Unemployment, high unemployment countries, problems of unemployment, unemployment rateetc.

I. Introduction

Unemployment is an important economic indicator because it demonstrates the ability of workers to easily obtain gainful work from contributing to the productive output of the economy. More unemployed workers mean that there will be less total economic output than might have otherwise. And unlike idle capital, unemployed

^{1.} **Research Student**, Shivaji University, Vidyanagar, Kolhapur (Maharashtra). *E-Mail:- bansodes1994@gmail.com* Mob. No. 9404286605

workers will still be required to maintain at least subsistence consumption during periods of unemployment. This means that in an economy with high unemployment, there is less production without declining in proportion to the basic consumption requirement. High, persistent unemployment can indicate a serious crisis in an economy and may even cause social and political upheaval. On the other hand, a low unemployment rate means that the economy is likely to produce near its full potential, maximize production and increase wage growth and driving living standards over time.

Unemployment occurs when working workers are unable to find jobs, which means lower economic output, while still requiring subsistence. A high rate of unemployment is an indication of an economic crisis, but an extremely low rate of unemployment may indicate an overheat economy. Unemployment can classified as cyclical, frictional, structural, natural, seasonal, institutional, under, over and disguised unemployment.

Today every country face unemployment problem some countries face it in high volume and some countries faces is in it low volume. Every country has different demographical and geographical levels. When unemployment rates are high and stable, long-run economic growth is negatively impacted. Unemployment is a waste of resources, redistribution creates pressure and disorder, increases poverty, limits labor mobility, and promotes social unrest and conflict. The consequences of unemployment can be broken down into three types' social political, social and individual. Many countries help unemployed workers through social welfare programs. Unemployment benefits people with insurance, compensation, welfare and restructuring grants. The labor market is not 100% efficient. Supply Side Solutions eliminates minimum wage and reduces union power. These strategies are designed to make the market easier in the pursuit of long-term economic growth.Full employment is often viewed as the "ideal" unemployment rate. Ideal unemployment excludes types of unemployment where labormarket inefficiencies are evident. Only some imaginary and voluntary unemployment exists, where workers are temporarily searching for new jobs. It classifies unemployed individuals as voluntary non-employees. Ideal unemployment promotes the efficiency of the economy.Unemployment and the state of the economy can be affected by a country's

economic policies, for example. Moreover, the monetary authority of a country like a central bank can influence the availability and cost of money through its monetary policy.

II. Research Methodology And Data Base:

Statement of the Problem :

Unemployment is a social problem. Unemployment is the biggest problem in front of every country. Because of unemployment workers/employee can loss their ability, skill, knowledge and they loss their identity. The unemployment harms the overall growth of country. The unemployment creates criminal activities in the mind of the employee and criminal rate also increase. And why some countries highly faces unemployment problems, Considering these problems the researcher is going to comparative study on high and lowest unemployment countries.

Objectives

- 1. To know the reasons of unemployment in selected countries.
- 2. To compare highest and lowest unemployment countries in the world.
- 3. To find the strategies of lowest unemployment countries to reduce unemployment.
- 4. To study which factor affect on high unemployment and low unemployment.

Significance of the study

Unemployment occurs when workers who want to work are unable to find jobs, which lowers economic output; however, they still require subsistence."Comparative study of selected countries in the world: The problem of unemployment" the study were focus on the various reasonsof high and lowunemployment in selected countries. This study will be helpful to high unemployment countries to reduce unemployment problems by considering strategies of low unemployment countries.

"Comparative study of selected countries in the world: The unemployment problem"This is exploratory study. The study based on secondary data. The sources of secondary data are internet websites, magazines, research papers, government reports etc. The researcher selected randomly five high unemployment (Burkina Faso, Syria, Senegal, Haiti, Kenya) and five low unemployment (Qatar, Thailand, Belarus, Benin, Gib raltar) countries for the study. This is comparative studyit covers different aspects of the unemployment in selected countries.

Limitation of the study :

Geographical limitation:

Research selects the countries respectively on the basis of highest to lowest unemployment countries. Researcher selected only five highest and five lowest unemployment countries. Researcher not covers all other countries.

Time limitation:

Researcher cover only period of 2015 to 2020 hence the researcher consider only five years. Hence the research is only considering impact factors of unemployment of these five years.

Data limitation:

The study based on secondary data, not taken any type of primary data this is the another type of limitation of the study.

III. Results and interpretation :

Table No. 1

Highest and lowest unemployment countries in the world

Sr. No.	Country Name With Percentage of Unemployment	Capital	Religion population in % of total population	Currency
1.	Burkina Faso (77%)	Ouagadougou	Muslim 58.9%	CFA franc
2.	Syria (50%)	Damascus	Muslim 87%	Syrian Pound
3.	Senegal (48%)	Dakar	Muslim 95%	CFA franc
4.	Haiti (40.60%)	Port-au-Prince	Roman Catholic 54.7%	Haitian gourde
5.	Kenya (40%)	Nairobi	Christians 85.52	Kenyan shilling (KES)
1.	Qatar (0.60%)	Doha	Muslims 67.7%	Qatari Riyal
2.	Thailand (0.70%)	Bangkok	Buddhist (94.6%)	Thai baht
3.	Belarus (1.0%)	Minsk	Christianity 48.3%	Belarusian ruble
4.	Benin (1.0%)	Porto-Novo	Muslim, 25.5%	CFA franc
5.	Gibraltar (1.0%)	Gibraltar	Roman Catholic 72.1%,	Gibraltar pound

(Source: -Compiled by researcher)

The unemployment rate can be found out by using the following formula

$$unemployment \ rate \ = \frac{Unemployment \ workers}{Total \ labor \ force} \times 100$$

The above table divides in two main headings Highest Unemployment and lowest unemployment. The table shows the country facing highest unemployment and which country faces low unemployment. The table shows the Country name with unemployment rate, capital of that country, language of that country, religious population of that country and currency.Mostly Muslim religious countries (Burkina Faso, Syria, Senegal) are facing highest unemployment problem. Roman Catholic (Haiti), Christians (Kenya) is also facing unemployment problems. Only Buddhist (Thailand) country is lowest unemployment rate countries from the above table.Currency valuation makes imports cheaper and exports less competitive, thus reducing domestic demand.Changes in the currency exchange rate can have an effect on unemployment. Currency exchange rate is also a main reason of unemployment



(Source: -Compiled by researcher)

The above table shows the highest unemployment countries in the world ranking, let discuss about this countries high unemployment causes/reasons

Burkain Fasio :

45 percent of Burkain Fasiolives below the poverty line, a large proportion of households above this line. Therefore, small changes in household income significantly affect the actual number of people living in poverty.Burkina Faso has the highest fertility rate in the world at five children per woman in 2015.In 2010, only 45 percent of the children living in rural areas were enrolled in primary school. Even less, 28 percent of secondary school children were enrolled in secondary school. In comparison, 83 percent

of the children in urban areas were enrolled in primary school and 60 percent in secondary school. Because of this Brukain Fasio is come under high employment rate.

Syria:

Due to inflation, many Syrian businesses and industries have shut down. More than 50 percent of the labor force is currently unemployed. This creates massive economic insecurity for millions of Syrians with no funds, most unable to access basic human needs such as food, water and shelter. Why is Syria poor? A major reason is lack of employment opportunities. Syria as a whole nation is not poor; it is in fact bulging with wealth. The problem is corruption of government from the top to the bottom. The President shamelessly loots the treasury and anything that can be stolen. To question his actions is forbidden.

Senegal:

Senegal, Africa's westernmost country, has a population of about 15 million people. Nearly half of the population of Senegal 46.7 percent, to be exact is living in poverty.Senegal's economy is poor and as a result many Senegal people migrate to other countries. In 1970, an economic crisis accelerated the migration, which intensified by 1990.The World Bank reported that Senegal's GDP growth is too low for significant poverty reduction.Micro finance has become an important factor in reducing poverty in very poor countries like Senegal. This program has allowed micro-lenders to take out poor loans from traditional banking. If the microfinance program is implemented by the Senegal government the poverty as well as unemployment also reduces.

Haiti:

The road to social, economic and intellectual development is reserved for French speakers, while the public is held in their misery because their language is not recognized nor allowed as an official language. One consequence of this language outrage is the national illiteracy rate, which is close to 90% in cities, and higher in rural areas. The largest part of Haiti's best land is harvested for export. Sugarcane is the major export crop,

but tropical fruits and other crops are also grown. Since there is no good land for local cereal crops (soybeans, rice, and corn), there is not enough land available for the people to grow or sell in the local market. Haiti does not have the basic social infrastructure to allow a viable economy. There are inadequate roads in the rural areas. Thus shipping goods to the market in Port-au-Prince is expensive and risky. Travel by workers is difficult and extremely time consuming because of bad roads. During the rainy season many areas cannot be reached at all by motor vehicles. People have no work or work for pay that cannot come close to paying wages to a living family. Due to soil erosion and the structure of agriculture, thousands are looking for work in Port-au-Prince. Most of them have heard of a friend's friend or uncle's cousin that they have found work in the tourism industry, or manufacturing. But there must be some jobs, and slums grow. These unemployed masses put increasing pressure on the already inadequate city infrastructure. Problems of unemployment and underemployment occur largely due to lack of adequate infrastructure and domination of all funds by some. The political instability of the present moment does not help.

Kenya:

The top 10 percent of wealthy families in Kenya control more than 40 percent of the country's income. The poorest 10 percent controls less than one percent.Kenya has the highest poverty rate in Nyanza province. A person living there can expect to live 16 years less than someone living in the central province.In the 20-24 years age group, there are 274,000 unemployed women compared to 73,000 unemployed men.This is one of the major facilitators of poverty in Kenya. Poor governance and a lack of proper leadership at the national level have led to the upheaval of public resources and the alarming level of corruption as public funding is guaranteed.



(Source: - Compiled by researcher)

The above table shows the most low unemployment countries in the world, let discuss about this countries low unemployment causes/reasons

Qatar:

According to latest figures released by the Planning and Statistics Authority (PSA), Qatar maintains its leadership position on the list of countries with the lowest unemployment rates globally. The number of economically active Qatari residents is increased by about 187 persons during the third quarter, or 0.2 percent in the second quarter. The number of non-Qatari individuals is increased by 0.3 percent in the third quarter. The PSA Manpower Survey showed that the number of participants in the workforce increased from 2,051,619 during the third quarter to 2,057,219 workers during the second quarter. According to the definition of the International Labor Organization, the number of job seekers reached 2,205 during the third quarter. Oil-rich Qatar has an extremely wealthy economy and as a result a strong labour market. As a result, Qatar is the only MENA-region country

to have youth unemployment rates lower than the world average. Employment is being boosted further by preparations for the country's hosting of the World Cup in 2022.

Thailand:

Low unemployment (below 1% since 2011)in Thailand due to low birth rate, lack of social insurance & informal sector with 64% of workforce (street vendors, motorbike taxis, self-employed). The informal sector of the Thai economy, in which no one is covered by formal working arrangements, accounted for more than 64% of the total workforce in 2013. This includes street vendors and taxi-motorbike drivers and self-employed. Gray sectors of the economy such as prostitution count them largely as employment.More than 40% of Thailand's population is engaged in agriculture, where there is high unemployment and off-season unemployment [when harvesting or planting season ends]. The unemployed are counted in employment and make up about 0.5% of that total. If, for example, you lose your job as a bank teller and return home and join your father's farm for at least a hour, a week, you are considered a employed person.

Belarus:

What is capable of such inclusive growth and rapid poverty reduction? There were several factors that contributed. Rapid economic growth was underpinned by favorable energy pricing from Russia and strong economic growth in Russia and other trading partners of Belarus, which boosted the country's manufacturing and agricultural sectors. High economic growth has allowed the government to maintain a high level of employment; This in fact allowed a steady increase in wages as well as pensions, which persisted with wage increases. Government taxes and expenses help the rich to the poor. Indeed, these policies benefit 97.5% of people with a market income below PPP US \$ 10 / day.

Benin:

Benin is One of Africa's largest cotton producers, the former French colony of Benin is still underdeveloped and dependent on subsistence agriculture and regional trade. Benin's economic independence score is 55.2, making its economy ranked 133 on the 2020 index.Over the past five years, however, GDP growth has been strong, perhaps due to Benin's membership in the G20 Compact with Africa initiative. However, the government has tried to attract foreign investment while continuing its efforts to improve the business environment, ongoing civil unrest, bureaucratic inefficiency, and infrastructure gaps have upset most investors.Employment in industry (% of total employment) in Benin (model ILO estimate) was 19.59 as of 2019. Its highest value in the last 28 years was 20.35 in 2002, while its lowest price in 1991 was 15.44.

Giberaltar:

The Gibraltar Employment Law applies to all employees working in Gibraltar, regardless of their nationality. If the parties have chosen a separate governing law in the employment contract, then this law is likely to govern any contract disputes. However, an alternative to foreign law would not otherwise prevent Gibraltar's law from being applied to employment relations.Certain categories of employees are not subject to the Gibraltar employment law, such as seamen and domestic workers in private homes. Some employees and independent contractors are responsible for their own tax and social insurance payments. There are various reasons in Giberaltar's low unemployment the government have strong rules for employee and their health.

IV. Conclusion :

The Study conclude that Personal and social costs of unemployment include severe financial distress and poverty, debt, homelessness and family stress, family stress and breakdowns, boredom, isolation, shame and stigma, increased social isolation, crime, loss of confidence and self-esteem. The most reason of high unemployment is income inequality,life expectancy inequality, unemployment inequality between men and women,education inequality,gender,outcome inequality and bad governance. The low unemployment reason is effective government policies, scope of employment regulation policies, categories of workers, resource efficiency, strong economy, categories of worker (Skilled and unskilled) distributionproperly andregulation of employment relationship etc. Considering these low unemployment causes the high employment countries want

to think on that and use their availablenatural and unnatural resources for reduction of unemployment problem in their country. The high unemployment country wants to focus on their labour laws and their implementation and also try to stable the currency exchange rate.

References :

- 1. https://worldpopulationreview.com/countries/unemployment-by-country/
- 2. https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/topic/Unemployment
- Chamber, R., Lake, A. 2002. Youth Business International: Bridging the gap between Unemployment and Self-employment for Disadvantaged Youth. ILO Skills Working Geneva: International Labour Organisation. Paper No. (3)
- 4. Higgins, N. 2008. Youth Labour Markets in Indonesia. The Philippines and Thailand, Mimeo, University of Salerno.
- 5. World Bank Policy Research Working Paper No. 4022, Washington DC: The World Bank. O"Higgins, Niall (2008) "Youth Labour Markets in Indonesia, the Philippines and Thailand", Mimeo, University of Salerno.



कोरोना विषाणू (कोविड -१९) महामारीचे सामाजिक परिणाम

डॉ.प्रल्हाद मा. माने^१

गोषवारा :

भारतामध्ये कोरोना संसर्गावर प्रतिबंध म्हणून मार्चच्या शेवटच्या आठवडयामध्ये लॉकडाऊन जाहीर केले. लॉकडाऊन आणि कोरोना महामारीचे भारतीय सामजिक जीवनावर गंभीर परिणाम झालेले आहेत. प्रस्तुत संशोधन लेखामध्ये कोरोना महामारीच्या सामाजिक परिणामावंर चर्चा केली आहे. संशोधन लेख सहा भागामध्ये विभागलेला आहे. भाग एक मध्ये प्रस्तावना, कोरोना विषयी माहिती, लक्षणे, लॉकडाऊन, भारतातील आकडेवारी आणि सामाजिक पद्धतीशास्त्रयाचा समावेश आहे. भाग दोन ते सहा यामध्ये कोरोना महामारीचे सकारात्मक व नकारात्मक सामाजिक परिणाम. असंघटित/स्थलांतरित मजुरांवरील सामाजिक परिणाम आणि महिलांच्या वरील सामाजिक परिणामांची चर्चा आणि विश्लेषण समाजशास्त्रीय दृष्टीकोनातून केलेले आहे. शेवटी भाग पाच आणि सहा मध्ये कोरोना विषयी प्रतिबंधात्मक उपाय आणि निष्कर्ष यांचे विश्लेषण केले आहे. संशोधन लेख पूर्ण करण्यासाठी दुय्यम साधनांच्या आधारे तथ्यसंकलन केलेले आहे. वर्णनात्मक संशोधन आराखड्यााचा वापर केला आहे. मार्च २०२० ते सप्टेंबर २०२० या कालखंडातील वर्तमानपत्रे, लेख, विविध सर्व्हेक्षणे इ. माहितीचा आधार घेतलेला आहे.

सुचक शब्द : कोरोना, संसर्ग, लॉकडाऊन, सामाजिक परिणाम, कोव्हीड योध्दा, सामाजिक आरोग्य, ऑनलाइन शिक्षण, असंघटित मजुर.

I. प्रस्तावना :

कोरोना (कोविड-१९) चा प्रसार भारतामध्ये वादू नये म्हणून मा. पंतप्रधान यांनी मार्च च्या शेवटच्या आठवडयामध्ये लॉकडाऊन जाहीर केले. लॉकडाऊन आणि कोरोना संसर्गाच्या प्रभावा मुळे सामाजिक आणि आर्थिक क्षेत्रावर परिणाम झालेला दिसून येतो. कोरोनाच्या महामारीच्या परिणामांची सर्वाधिक धग कष्टकरी वर्गाला बसत आहे. कष्टकरी वर्गासाठी कोरोनाची दाहकता अगदी उपासमारी पासून, स्थलांतरापासून आता हातबलेतेतून आत्महत्या पर्यंत पोहोचली आहे. सर्वात जास्त परिणाम असंघटित क्षेत्रावर झाल्याचे दिसून येते. कोरोनामुळे निर्माण झालेल्या अनेक संकटांपैकी आर्थिक मंदी, बेरोजगारी व मागणी पुरवठ्यााची तुटलेली साखळी ही प्रमुख संकटे आहेत. असंघटित क्षेत्रातील कोट्यावधी लोकांचा

१ सहाय्यक प्राध्यापक, समाजशास्त्र अधिविभाग, शिवाजी विद्यापीठ, कोल्हापूर (महाराष्ट्र)

ई-मेल : pmm_soc@unishivaji.ac.in मोबा. ९८६०९६६२६०

रोजगार बुडाला आहे. प्राथमिक क्षेत्रांमध्ये कृषी, औषध निर्माण, पेट्रोल आणि ऑईल उद्योग क्षेत्रावर परिणाम झाला आहे. उत्पादन क्षेत्राची घडी विस्कटली आहे. भारत हा कृषी प्रधान देश आहे कृषी क्षेत्राकडून देशाच्या अर्थव्यवस्थेमध्ये १४ टक्के भर घातली जाते. त्याचबरोबर ४० टक्के लोकांना रोजगार या क्षेत्राकडून निर्माण केले जातात.

लॉकडाऊन मुळे कृषी क्षेत्रावर परिणाम होऊन अर्थव्यवस्था कमकुवत झाली आणि रोजगार कमी झालेत. शेतमजुरांची तर फार हलाखी झालेली आहे. कृषी–आधारित बाजारपेठा भाजी, फळे आणि धान्य पुरवठा पुर्ववत नाहीत. दुय्यम क्षेत्रांमध्ये माहिती-तंत्रज्ञान आणि वित्त उद्योगावर गंभीर परिणाम झाल्याचे दिसून येते. शिक्षण क्षेत्रामध्ये शाळा, महाविद्यालये, संशोधन संस्था, विद्यापीठे इत्यादीच्या कामकाजावर गंभीर परिणाम झाला आहे. सरकारचे पहिले प्राधान्य आर्थिकघडी पुन्हा बसवण्यासाठी आहे. तर दुसऱ्या बाजूला आंतरराष्ट्रीय, राष्ट्रीय आणि राज्य पातळीवर काम करणाऱ्या सामाजिक संस्था मदत कार्यात सरकारच्या बरोबरीने किंवा स्वतंत्रपणे जोमाने काम करीत आहेत. तसेच सामाजिक संस्था, शैक्षणिक संस्था, विद्यापीठे या परिस्थितीचा विविधांगाने अभ्यास विश्लेषण करत आहेत.

II. संशोधन पद्धतीशास्त्र :

संशोधन लेख पूर्ण करण्यासाठी दुय्यम साधनांच्या आधारे तथ्यसंकलन केलेले आहे. वर्णनात्मक संशोधन आराखड्यााचा वापर केला आहे. मार्च २०२० ते सप्टेंबर २०२० या कालखंडातील वर्तमानपत्रे, लेख, विविध सर्व्हेक्षणे इ. माहितीचा आधार घेतलेला आहे.

III. चर्चा आणि विश्लेषण:

• कोरोना विषाणू विषयी माहिती :

कोरोना हा विषाणूंचा (व्हायरसचा) एक मोठा गट आहे. ज्यांच्या प्रादुर्भावाने सौम्य सर्दी ते सार्स (SARS) आणि मेर्स (MERS) सारखे गंभीर श्वसनाचे रोग होतात. सार्सचा प्रादुर्भाव करणाऱ्या कोरोनाव्हायरस आणि सार्स-सीओव्ही-२ (SARS-CoV-2) मध्ये बरीच समानता आहे.पुष्कळसे कोरोनाव्हायरस झुनोटिक (पशुजन्य) असतात. म्हणजे ते प्राण्यांपासून मानवात संक्रमित होतात. सार्स कोरोनाव्हायरस ह्या प्राणी विषाणूने एका अनिश्चित प्राण्यापासून (बहुदा वाघळांपासून) दुसऱ्या प्राण्यांना (उदमांजर/Civet cat) आणि २००२ मध्ये दक्षिणी चीनच्या ग्वांगडोंग प्रांतातील मानवांना संक्रमण केल्याचे मानले जाते. तर २०१२ मध्ये सौदी अरेबियात मेर्स कोरानाव्हायरसचे ड्रॉमेडरी उंटांकडून मानवांना संक्रमण झाले. (SARS-CoV-2) देखील वाघळांपासून संक्रमित झाल्याचा पुरावा आहे. संशोधकानुसार नवीन कोरोनाव्हायरस आणि वाघंळाच्या कोरोनाव्हायरस मध्ये ९८% साम्य आहे. या शोधाचे निकाल सायन्स (Science) संशोधक जर्नलमध्ये प्रकाशित केले आहेत. यात असेही आढळून आले आहे की सार्स (SARS)

कोरोनाव्हायरस सारखेच कोविड – १९ प्रोटीनचे मानवी पेशींना जोडणारे रिसेप्टर समान आहेत. त्यांना एंजियोटेन्सीन कन्व्हर्टींग एन्झाईम २ (ACE2) म्हणतात. ह्या संवेदी/रिसेप्टर्सव्दारे कोरोनाव्हायरस मानवी पेशीत प्रवेश करतात. नवीन कोरोनाव्हायरसच्या स्पाईक प्रोटीन्सची मानवी पेशीना जोडण्याची क्षमता सार्स (SARS) पेक्षा १० ते २० पट अधिक आहे.

दुसऱ्या एका मतप्रवाहानुसार, कोरोना एका नव्या जागतिक युद्धाच्या तयारीत असलेल्या देशांनी प्रयोगशाळेत बनविला आहे, असे अनेकांना आज जगभर वाटते आहे. त्यात मुख्य 'आरोपीध् देश आहेत- चीन, अमेरिका, रशिया आणि काहींच्या मते इस्रायली शास्त्रज्ञ. या संशयांना कोणताही पुरावा दिला गेलेला नाही. विषाणू विषयी संशोधन जरूर चालू होते. पण अपघाताने हा विषाणू प्रयोगशाळेतून बाहेर पडला, या शंकेलाही कोणताही पुरावा नाही, असे जगातील बहुसंख्य संशोधकांना वाटते. शिवाय असे जैविक अस्त्र सोडल्यावर त्याच्यावर नियंत्रण ठेवण्याचे तंत्रज्ञान कोणाकडे असल्याचे सिध्द झालेले नाही.

• कोरोनाच्या चीनमध्ये संसर्ग आणि जगभर प्रसार :

चीनच्या आरोग्य अधिकाऱ्यांनी ३१ डिसेंबर २०१९ रोजी हुबेई प्रांतातील वुहान शहरात अज्ञात कारणांनी झालेल्या निमोनियाच्या प्रकरणांची माहिती जागतिक आरोग्य संघटनेला दिली. ९ जानेवारी २०२० रोजी जागतिक आरोग्य संघटनेने जारी केलेल्या निवेदनात चीनी संशोधकांनी नवीन कोरोनाव्हायरस बाबत प्राथमिक निर्धार केल्याचे सांगितले. ३० जानेवारी २०२० रोजी जागतिक आरोग्य संघटनेने या विषाणूचा उद्रेक हा सार्वजनिक आरोग्य विषयक आंतरराष्ट्रीय आणीबाणी असल्याचे जाहीर केले. ११ मार्च २०२० रोजी जागतिक आरोग्य संघटनेने (डब्ल्यूएचओ) कोविड-१९ ला विश्वव्यापी साथीचा रोग / वैश्विक महामारी म्हणून जाहीर केले आहे. आतापर्यंत भारतासह १९० हुन अधिक देशातून विषाणू बाधा झाल्याची प्रकरणे उघड झाली आहेत. जगाला कोरोनाने व्यापून टाकले आहे. युरोप, अमेरिका आणि आशिया खंडामध्ये कोरोनाचा प्रसार वेगाने होताना दिसून येत आहे.

कोविड –१९ ची लक्षणे :

कोविड -१९ ची लक्षणे रोगाची लागण झाल्यापासून दोन ते चौदा दिवसात दिसू लागतात. यामध्ये ताप, खोकला, सर्दीगळने आणि श्वास घेण्यास त्रास होणे ही लक्षणे दिसून येतात. प्रथम संसर्ग झालेल्या लोकांच्या श्वसनाच्या उत्सर्जनातून हा आजार पसरतो. एखाद्या व्यक्तीने विषाणूने दूषित पृष्ठभागाला, वस्तूला स्पर्श केल्यास आणि त्यानंतर स्वत:च्या तोंड,नाक व डोळ्यांना स्पर्श केल्यास त्याला या आजाराचा प्रादुर्भाव होतो.

• भारतामध्ये सुरुवात :

२९ जानेवारी २०२० रोजी भारतातील कोरोनाव्हायरस ची लागण झालेला पहिला रुग्ण हा केरळमध्ये आढळला. महाराष्ट्रातील पहिला रुग्ण पुण्यामध्ये ९ मार्च २०२० रोजी आढळला महाराष्ट्रातील पहिला बळी १६ मार्च २०२० रोजी मुंबईतील कस्तुरबा रुग्णालयात उपचारादरम्यान झाला. तेव्हापासून सप्टेंबर २०२० पर्यत जगभरात कोव्हीड –१९ मुळे १० लाखापेक्षा जास्त मृंत्यूची नोंद झाली आहे. या संसर्गावर लस उपलब्ध न झाल्याने, त्याचा प्रसार रोखण्यासाठी त्यापासून लांब राहणे, हा एकच पर्याय उपलब्ध आहे. सगळ्यांनी आपला सामाजिक वावर सुरक्षितपणे करण्याचे आवाहन जगातील प्रत्येक देशात करण्यात येत आहे.

• मा.पंतप्रधानांच्या मार्फत टाळेबंदी /लॉकडाऊन आणि महत्वपूर्ण सुचना :

१९१८ नंतर एवढी मोठी जागतिक साथ प्रथमच येते आहे आणि हा पूर्णपणे नवा आजार आहे. आधुनिक वैद्यकशास्त्र याबाबत अनभिज्ञ आहे. उपचारांसंबधी अजून चाचपडणे चालू आहे. प्रतिबंधात्मक लशीस वेळ आहे. म्हणूनच या विषयातील तज्ज्ञ मंडळींच्या सल्ल्याने (डॉक्टर, संशोधक इ.) जगभरातील राजकारण्यांनी प्रतिबंधात्मक उपाय योजले. यातूनच लॉकडाऊनची संकल्पना पुढे आली. भारतही त्याला अपवाद नाही. पंतप्रधान नरेंद्र मोदी यांनी २२ मार्च रोजी देशभर लॉकडाउन जाहीर केला. सर्व नागरिकांनी आपापल्या घरातच राहून, वैयक्तिक काळजी घेतल्यास हा संसर्ग होण्याची साखळी तुटेल आणि या संसर्गाने होणारी हानी कमी होईल, हा त्यामागचा हेतू होता. पुढीलप्रमाणे टप्याटप्याने भारतामध्ये लॉकडाऊन जाहीर केले गेले.

टाळेबंदी	कालावधी	टाळेबंदी जाहिर	घोषवाक्य	इंग्रजी भाषांतर
अं. नं.		केल्याची तारीख		
टाळेबंदी १.०	२५ मार्च -१४ एप्रिल	२४ मार्च	'जान है तो जहान है.'	Only if there is life there will be livelihood
टाळेबंदी २.०	१५ एप्रिल - ३ मे	११ एप्रिल	'जान भी जहान है.'	Both lives and livelihood matters equally.
टाळेबंदी ३.०	४ मे – १७ मे	११ मे	'जान से लेकर जग तक.'	From an individual to the whole og humanity
		१२ मे	'आत्मनिर्भर भारत'	Self reliant India
टाळेबंदी ४.०	१८ मे - ३१ मे		राज्य आणि केंद्र शासीत प्रदेशांना अधिकार.	

//////////////////////////////////////	सारणी	क्र	:	१
--	-------	-----	---	---

वरील सारणी क्र.१ मध्ये दर्शविल्यानुसार २५ मार्च ते ३१ मे पर्यत देशभर पूर्ण लॉकडाऊन होते. अजूनही लॉकडाऊन पूर्णपणे उठलेले नाही. त्यानंतरही आजपर्यंत फक्त जीवनावश्यक आणि कमी धोक्याच्या क्षेत्रातील कामकाज सूरु आहे. टाळेबंदीमुळे समूह संसर्ग होण्यास आळा बसला खरा पण त्यामुळे अनेक परिणाम घडून आले. त्यामध्ये सामाजिक, शैक्षणिक, आर्थिक, उद्योग, पर्यटन, .षी क्षेत्रावर मोठ्याा प्रमाणावर नुकसान झाले. लॉकडाऊनचा सामाजिक क्षेत्रावरील परिणामांचा आढावा प्रस्तूत संशोधन लेखामध्ये करण्यात आला आहे.

• सध्याची भारतातील कोरोना बाधितांची आकडेवारी :



(स्त्रोत :सकाळ १६ सप्टेंबर, २०२०)

वरील सारणी क्र.२ मध्ये देशातील कोरोनाची १८ सप्टेंबरपर्यंतची विविध राज्य आणि केंद्र शासित

प्रदेशातील रुगणसंख्या आणि मृत्यूसंख्या दर्शविली आहे. यामध्ये सर्वात जास्त कोरोना रुग्णसंख्या महाराष्ट्र राज्यात असल्याचे दिसून येते. एक्रूगच लॉकडाऊन नंतर सुध्दा कोरोना रुग्नसंख्या आणि मृत्युसंख्या झपाटयाने वाढताना दिसून येते.

• कोरोना महामारीच्या सामाजिक परिणामांची चर्चा आणि विश्लेषण :

मोठ्याा आपत्ती मोठे बदल घडवतात हे खरेय पण ते सकारात्मक घडणार की विपरीत हे आपल्यावर अवलंबून आहे. किंबहुना या बदलांना आपण कशाप्रकारे सामोरे जातो, यावर बरेच काही अवलंबून असते. सध्या जगभरात थैमान घालणा-या कोरोनाच्या साथीमुळे सगळीकडेच मोठी उलथापालथ घडते आहे. अनेक व्यवस्था मुळापासून कोलमडण्याच्या मार्गावर आहेत. माणसांच्या सवयीमध्येही मोठे बदल घडण्याची प्रक्रिया सुरू आहे. समाजातल्या प्रत्येक व्यक्तीला आपण अधिक सक्षम करणार, की आपल्याला एक समाज म्हणून काही वर्षे मागे ढकलणार, हे आपण आपत्तीला सामोरे कसे जातो, निर्णय कसे घेतो आणि त्यातून काय शिकतो यावर ठरेल.कोविड – १९ महामारी चे परिणाम संपूर्ण जगातील मानवी समाजावर झालेले आहेत. भारत हा विकसनशील देश आहे. प्रगत देशांच्या तुलनेत भारतीय अर्थव्यवस्थेवर आणि विविध सामाजिक घटकांवर या महामारीचे गंभीर परिणाम झालेले आहेत. यापैकी महामारीचे सकारात्मक आणि नकारात्मक सामाजिक परिणाम पुढीलप्रमाणे आहेत.

• कोरोना महामारीचे सकारात्मक सामाजिक परिणाम:

कोरोनाशी लढा देत असताना यावर नियंत्रणासाठी प्रभावी उपाय ठरत असलेल्या लॉकडाऊनमुळे या देशात लोकांच्या जीवनात अनेक बदल घडवून आणलेत. या संकटकाळी आपणही समाजाचे काही देणे लागतो ही जाणीव ठेवून सर्व स्तरातील लोक जमेल तशी मदत करत आहेत. कुठलेही जातीभेद, धर्मभेद, व पंथभेद न मानता कोरोनाला सामोरे जाताना दिसत आहेत. कमी गरजांमध्ये दैनंदिन जीवन कसे जगता येऊ शकते याचा धढाही कोरोनाने दिला आहे. कोरोना महामारीचे काही सकारात्मक परिणाम पुढीलप्रमाणे आहेत.

• सामाजिक भान वाढीस लागले :

कोरोनाविषाणू ने केलेला कहर आणि लागू झालेल्या टाळेबंदीमुळे अवघे जनजीवन जवळपास ठप्प झाले होते. अशा वातावरणात सामाजिक भान जपत मदतीला धावून जाणा-या मंडळीच्या हातातून जाती-धर्माच्या भेदभावाच्या भिंती कोसळत आहे. सामाजिक भान जे कुठेतरी कमी होत चालले होते ते पुन्हा निर्माण होत असल्याचे चित्र लॉकडाऊन मध्ये आणि नंतर बघायला मिळाले. नागपूरमध्ये काही तरुणांनी सोशल कनेक्ट नावाचा देशव्यापी सेतू तयार केला आहे. भुकेल्यांना अन्न, आजारी लोकांना औषध उपचार, ज्येष्ठांना हवं तसं सहकार्य दिले जाते. यानिमित्त असंख्य हात पुढे येत आहेत. महिला बचत गटही मास्क निर्मितीमध्ये महत्त्वाचे योगदान देत आहेत. त्यांच्या सहभागाने देशात दीड कोटींवर मास्क तयार झालेत. गावपातळीवरील लोक जमेल तशी मदत करत आहेत. विविध स्तरातून येणा–या अशा बातम्या संकटसमयी उत्साह वाढवणारे आणि आशावर्धक आहेत. यावरुन सामाजिक भान वाढीस लागल्याचे दिसून येते.

• सामाजिक शिस्त :

अनेक सुज्ञ नागरिकांनी संचार बंदीच्या काळात स्वतःला गुंतवून ठेवले. घरातील स्वच्छता, दैनंदिन कामे, वाचन, लिखाण, व्यायाम, संगीत, यात रममाण होत आहेत हा सकारात्मक बदल आहे. सामाजिक शिस्त नावाचा प्रकार तसा आपल्या इथे दुर्मिळच होता. पण या काळात तोही बघायला मिळतोय. मरणाच्या भीतीने असो वा पोलिसांच्या लोक शिस्त पाळायला लागलेत.

• सामाजिक बांधीलकी:

लॉकडाऊन दरम्यान सामाजिक बांधिलकीची अनेक उदाहरणे समोर आलीत. त्यापैकी एक उदाहरण दिल्ली बघायला मिळाले. तेथील मराठी प्रतिष्ठानाने अडकून पडलेल्या मराठी विद्यार्थ्याच्या जेवणाची जबाबदारी घेतली. स्पर्धा परीक्षेच्या तयारीसाठी राज्यातून अनेक मुली जातात त्यांना दिलासा दिला. अशी कितीतरी उदाहरणे सामाजिक बांधिलकीची घडून आली आहेत. हिंदू व्यक्तीच्या अंत्यसंस्कारासाठी मुस्लिम समाज धावून आल्याचे उदाहरणसुध्दा पहावयास मिळाले. सोलापुरात पद्मावती कुलकर्णी यांच्या निधनानंतर अंत्यसंस्कारासाठी मुस्लीम समुदाय धावून आल्याचे चित्र पाहावयास मिळाले. टाळेबंदी मुळे विविध ठिकाणी घरातील व्यक्ती अडकून राहिल्याने एक हिंदू व्यक्तीचा अंत्यविधी मुस्लिम व्यक्ती ने केला यातून सामाजिक एकात्मतेस चालना मिळाली. सामाजिक बांधीलकीतून सेवाभावी वृतीने काम करणाऱ्या कोरोना योध्दयांचा सत्कार आणि अभिनंदन समाजाकडून होताना दिसून येते.

• कौटुंबिक संबंधामध्ये जवळिकता :

कुटुंबसंस्था ही मूलभूत आणि महत्वपूर्ण सार्वत्रिक सामाजिक संस्था आहे. कोरोनामुळे कुटुंबसंस्था भक्कम होताना दिसून येत आहे. नोकर, व्यवसाय, उद्योगामध्ये अतिशय व्यस्त असणा-या लोकांना लॉकडाऊनमध्ये आपला वेळ आपल्या कुटुंबियांसोबत घालवण्याची संधी मिळाली. यामुळे आई,वडिल, बहिण, पति, पत्नी, मूले यांच्या नात्यामध्ये भावनिक ओलावा निर्माण झाला. यातून कुटुंबसंस्था आणि नातेसंबंध भक्कम होताना दिसून येत आहेत. कुटुंबातील सदस्यांमध्ये एकमेकांविषयी प्रेम, आपुलकी जिव्हाळा वाढताना दिसून येत आहे.

• टाळेबंदीत विदर्भातील शेतकरी आत्महत्या निम्म्यावर:

कोरोनाची विश्वव्यापी महामारी आणि नैसर्गिक आपत्ती अशा दुहेरी दुष्टचक्रात अडकलेल्या शेतकरीवर्गाने विपरीत परिस्थितीतही आपले मनोबल उंच ठेवले. टाळेबंदीच्या काळात विदर्भातील शेतकरी आत्महत्या प्रमाण निम्यावर आले आहे. आत्महत्याग्रस्त सहा जिल्ह्यातील हे चित्र आहे.

अकोला, यवतमाळ, बुलढाणा, अमरावती, वाशीम, वर्धा या सहा जिल्हयांमध्ये २००१ पासून शेतकरी आत्महत्येच्या घटना घडलेल्या आहेत. विविध उपाययोजनांच्या नावावर कोट्याावधीचा खर्च झाला. मात्र शेतकरी आत्महत्या कमी झाल्या नाहीत. त्यातच कोरोना संकटामुळे शेतीचे मोठे नुकसान झाले. पिकवलेल्या मालाला खरेदीदार देखील मिळाला नाही कापसासारख्या पिकांची शासकीय खरेदी अतिशय संथ गतीने सुरू आहे.

अशा परिस्थितील कोरोनाच्या आपत्ती पुढे सर्व क्षेत्र कोलमडली असताना शेतकरी मात्र योग्य पध्दतिने त्याचा सामना करीत आहेत. गेल्या पाच वर्षामध्ये आत्महत्याग्रस्त सहा जिल्ह्यातील ६०१७ शेतक-यांनी मृत्यूला कवटाळत महिन्याकाठी सरासरी १०१ शेतकरी आत्महत्या झाल्या. २०२० मध्ये जानेवारीत ९५ व फेब्रुवारीत महिन्यात १०१ शेतक-यांनी जीव दिला. कोरोनाचा शिरकाव झाल्यापासून मात्र विदर्भातील शेतकरी आत्महत्यांची संख्या अर्ध्यावर आली. मार्च ४६, एप्रिल ४४, व मे ५३ या तीन महिन्यात अशा एक्ट्रग १४३ शेतकर-यांनी आत्महत्या केली. महिन्याची सरासरी ४८ पर्यत खाली आली. कोरोना व टाळेबंदी च्या काळात शेतकरी आत्महत्या प्रमाणावर काही अंशी नियंत्रण आले. वर्धा जिल्ह्यात मार्च एप्रिल व मे महिन्यात एकही शेतकरी आत्महत्येची नोंद झाली नाही. या कालावधीत अकोला जिल्ह्यात १६, अमरावतीत ३१, यवतमाळ ४६, बुलढाणा ३५, व वाशिम जिल्ह्यामध्ये १५ शेतक-यांच्या आत्महत्या झाल्या आहेत.

डॉ. विलास भाले, (कुलगुरू, डॉक्टर पंजाबराव देशमुख कृषी विद्यापीठ, अकोला) यांचे मते 'शेतक– यांनी आत्तापर्यंत अनेक संकटांना धैर्याने सामना केला. त्यामुळे ते कोरोणाच्या आपत्ती पुढे झुकले नाहीत. टाळे बंदीच्या काळात शेतीची कामे सुरु होती. शेतक–यांचे आत्मबल वाढल्याने आत्महत्येचे प्रमाण कमी झाले. ही निश्चितच सकारात्मक बाब आहे'

शेतकरी आत्महत्या दर निम्यावर आला ही सकारात्मक बाब आहे. समाजशास्त्रीय दृष्टीकोनातून पाहताना येथे असे दिसून येते की गरिबी या कालखंडात वाढली पण आत्महत्यादर कमी झाला. म्हणजेच गरिबी ही आत्महत्येला पूर्णपणे जबाबदार नसून विविध सामाजिक घटक कारणीभूत आहेत. या काळात आप्तसंबंध व्यवस्था भक्कम होताना विवाह हे साध्या पध्दतीने होताना दिसून येतात. या काळात एका प्रेमीयुगुलाने ऑनलाइन विवाह करून नवा अध्याय घालून दिला.

• कोरोना महामारीचे नकारात्मक सामाजिक परिणाम:

कोरोनाने जगामध्ये भय आणि क्लेशदायक परिस्थिती निर्माण केली व सबंध मानवी जीवनामध्ये एक प्रकारची गतिशून्यता आणली आहे. भारतही आज या आजाराशी मुकाबला करताना संघर्षमय परिस्थितीतून जातो आहे. आज भारतात करोनाग्रस्तांची संख्या लाखांत आहे. कोरोनाशी मुकाबला करण्यासाठी सरकार सर्व उपाययोजना करत आहे. लॉकडाउनही शिथिल करण्यात आले आहे. अशा संकटसमयी सार्वजनिक क्षेत्रामधील सामान्य जनतेच्या समाज हितकारक वृत्तीचीही कसोटी लागली आहे. कोरोना च्या महामारीमध्ये सामाजिक जीवनामध्ये काही नकारात्मक परिमणाम घडून आलेत. त्याची चर्चा पुढीलप्रमाणे करण्यात आली आहे.

* व्यवसाय, रोजगारासाठी गेलेल्या लोकांना गावबंदी :

कोरोना मुळे केलेल्या देशबंदीनंतर गावी परतलेल्या कित्येकांना गावातल्यांनी रोगाचे संशयित वाहक म्हणून वेशीवरच अडवलं. या लोकांकडे स्थानिक लोकांचा पाहण्याचा .ष्टीकोन पूर्णपणे बदलला. यांच्याकडे संशयाने पाहण्यास सुरुवात झाली. गाव आणि जातीनंही त्यांच्याकडे पाठ फिरवली होती. त्यांना गावाबाहेरच बसवलं होत. त्यामुळे सामाजिक वातावरण दूषित झाल्याचे दिसून येते. याचा नातेसंबंधवर दूरगामी परिणाम झाल्याचे दिसून येते. काही लोकांकडून प्रवास लपविला गेला. यामुळे स्थानिक आणि प्रवास करुन आलेले लोक आणि त्यांचे कुटुंबीय यामध्ये बऱ्याच ठिकाणी संघर्ष झाल्याचे दिसून येतो. यामुळे सामाजिक नातेसंबंधामध्ये दुरावा निर्माण झाल्याचे दिसून येते.

✤ कोरोना रुम्रांकडे आणि कोव्हीड योध्दांकडे पाहण्याचा दृष्टीकोन:

कोरोनाचा विकार आपल्या समाजाला नवी विषमता शिकवतो आहे. त्यातूनच, कोरोना रुग्णांशी किंवा कोव्हिड योद्ध्यांशी वागताना समाजाचे क्रौर्य उफाळून येते आहे. कोरोनाग्रस्त रुग्णांकडे दया भावनेने पाहणे अपेक्षित होते. पण त्या ऐवजी समाजात तिटकारा अधिक प्रकर्षाने जाणवतो. कोरोना रुग्णांकडे लोक तिटका-याने पाहताना दिसून येते. त्यामुळे भारतीय समाजाचे सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र विवेकशून्य बनत चालले आहे का असे वाटायला लागले आहे. कोरोनामुळे व्यक्ती-व्यक्तींमधील नातेसंबंधाविषयी नव्याने चर्चेला सुरुवात झाली आहे.कोरोनाची लागण झालेल्यांची संख्या एका बाजूला वाढत असताना, दुस-या बाजूला त्यांच्या प्रती त्यांचेच शेजारी व नातेवाइक असंवेदनशील होताना दिसतात. अनेक ठिकाणी त्या व्यक्तीला अक्षरश: वाळीत टाकण्याच्याही घटना घडत आहेत. कोरोना रुग्णांप्रती व या आजाराशी लढणा-या डॉक्टर, पोलिस, निमवैद्यकीय सेवा देणारे कर्मचारी यांच्याप्रती द्वेषपूर्ण व्यवहार व त्यांना वाळीत टाकण्याची वृत्ती, सध्या
आपल्या सार्वजनिक क्षेत्रात दिसून येते. ही क्लेशदायक बाब आहे. कोरोनाच्या कठीण प्रसंगात एकमेकांविषयी संशय व अनादराची भावना समाज जीवनात प्रकर्षाने दिसून येत आहे.

आरोग्य, पोलिस व स्थानिक प्रशासनाचे कर्मचारी दिवस-रात्र कोरोनाशी झुंज देत, रुग्णांना बरे करण्यासाठी मेहनत घेत आहेत. गेल्या काही महिन्यांपासून मात्र या कोरोनायोद्धयांना भेदभाव व सामाजिक बहिष्काराला सामोरे जावे लागले आहे. या संदर्भात एका पोलिस कर्मचाऱ्याची कहाणी खूप बोलकी आहे. धारावीमध्ये काम करणा-या व कल्याणमध्ये राहणाऱ्या पोलिस कर्मचाऱ्याला, त्याच्याच घरामध्ये काही दिवसांपूर्वी सोसायटीमधील पदाधिकारी व रहिवाशांनी प्रवेश नाकारला. त्यांच्या मोटारीचीदेखील मोडतोड केली. नाशिक स्थित एका डॉक्टरला लक्षणेविरहित कोरोना झाल्यावर, वैद्यकीय सल्ल्याप्रमाणे त्यांना रुग्णालयापेक्षा घरीच विलगीकरणाचा सल्ला देण्यात आला. सोसायटीमध्ये आल्यावर, त्यांना इतर रहिवाशांनी त्यांच्याच सदनिकेत प्रवेशाला मज्जाव केला. परिणामी डॉक्टरांना आपल्या रुग्णालयातील स्टोअररूममध्ये राहावे लागले. त्यांच्या अमेरिकेतील मुलाला शेवटी पोलिसांत तक्रार दाखल करावी लागली. ही ती सामाजिक बहिष्कार दर्शविते. कोरोनाबाधित रुग्णांवरील सामाजिक बहिष्कारासारख्या वाढत्या घटनांमुळे, पोलिसांना अनेक हाउसिंग सोसायट्यांाना कायदेशीर नोटिसा पाठवाव्या लागल्या आहेत. काही ठिकाणी 'आशा' म्हणून काम करणाऱ्या महिलांना गावकऱ्यांकडून मारहाण झाल्याची उदाहरणे आहेत. अनेक कोरोना योद्धयांना मारहाण होण्याचे प्रकार विविध ठिकाणी घडून आल्याचे दिसून येते. यातून समाजाची कोरोना कालावधीत निरपेक्ष भावनेने काम करणा-या लोकांच्या विषयीची असंवेदनशीलता दिसून येते. कोरोना योध्दयांना होणारी मारहाण आणि मानहानी विरोधात नुकताच संसदे मध्ये कायदा करण्यात आला आहे.

✤ मानसिक व सामाजिक आरोग्यावर परिणाम:

आनंदाने जगण्यासाठी शारीरिक आरोग्याबरोबरच तुमचे मानसिक व सामाजिक आरोग्यही उत्तम असणे आवश्यक आहे. सामाजिक आरोग्य म्हणजे समाजातील लोकांच्या शारीरिक, मानसिक व सामाजिक स्वास्थ्याचे कल्याण किंवा हित साधने होय. सामाजिक आरोग्य या शब्दाचा शब्दश: अर्थ व्यक्तीच्या सभोवतालच्या वातावरणाचा व्यक्तीच्या आरोग्यावर झालेला परिणाम. व्यक्तीच्या सभोवतालचे वातावरण निकोप, आनंदी व प्रसन्न असेल, तर व्यक्तीचे मानसिक आरोग्य उत्तम राहते. परिणामी शारीरिक आरोग्य ही निरोगी राहण्यास हातभार लागतो. निरोगी राहण्यासाठी वैयक्तिक सामाजिक आरोग्य जितके महत्त्वाचे आहे. तितकेच तुम्ही राहत असलेल्या समाजाचे आरोग्य निरोगी व निकोप असणे आवश्यक आहे. समाजातील उच्चनीच भाव, श्रेष्ठ-कनिष्ठता यावरून व्यक्तींना मिळणारी वागणूक त्यांना दिल्या जाणाऱ्या सुविधांमधील भेदभाव, सामाजिक समस्या, आदीमुळे सामाजिक आरोग्य धोक्यात येते. कोरोना महामारीच्या कालखंडामध्ये सामाजिक व मानसिक आरोग्य धोक्यात आले आहे.

सामाजिक अलगीकरण, त्यातील सातत्य, भीती, बेरोजगारी आणि आर्थिक घटक यामुळे विविध क्षेत्रातील लोकांच्या आत्महत्येचे प्रमाण वाढले आहे. कोरोना मुळे निर्माण झालेल्या परिस्थितीमुळे असमानता वाढीस लागली आहे. खाजगी दवाखान्यातील उपचार प्रचंड महाग झाले आहेत. गरीब लोकांना योग्य उपचार घेणे अशक्य झाले आहे. खासगी हॉस्पिटलमध्ये पैशाच्या आधारे श्रीमंत लोक गंभीर लक्षणे नसताना ऑक्सिजन बेड आरक्षित करणे आणि उपचार घेणे सुरू आहे. त्यामुळे गंभीर लक्षणे नसताना ऑक्सिजन बेड आरक्षित करणे आणि उपचार घेणे सुरू आहे. त्यामुळे गंभीर लक्षणे असणा–या गरिबांना उपचार घेणे अशक्य झाले आहे. उदाहणार्थ कोल्हापूरला लागून असलेल्या जिल्ह्यातील अनेक रुग्णांवर सध्या शहरातील काही खासगी रुग्णालयांत उपचार सुरू आहेत. बाहेरून येणा–या अशा रुग्णांनाच डॉक्टर प्राधान्य देतात. स्थानिक रुणाला दाखल केले तर त्यांच्याकडून येणारे नेत्यांचे फोन, वारंवार होणारी चौकशी याचा त्रास नको म्हणून स्थानिक रूग्णांना बेडच द्यायचा नाही, असेच काही डॉक्टरांनी ठरवले आहे असे दिसते. त्यामुळे शहरातील रुग्णांना बेड मिळवतानाच यातायात करावी लागत आहे. अशी परिस्थिती सर्वत्र देशभर दिसून येते. थोडक्यात सामाजिक व मानसिक आरोग्य धोक्यात आले आहे. त्यामुळे या महामारीच्या काळात आणि नंतर लोकांच्या मानसिक आणि सामाजिक आरोग्यासाठी ठोस कार्यक्रम आखायला हवा.

✤ डॉक्टरांकडून नातेवाइकांना होतोय त्रास:

रुग्णालयाच्या अतिदक्षता विभागात कोरोनामुळे मृत्यूशी झुंज देणारा रुग्र आणि त्याच्या काळजीत रुग्णालयाबाहेर थांबलेले नातेवाईक असे चित्र बहुतांशी रुग्णालयाच्या दारात आहेत. यात डॉक्टरांकडून दिली जाणारी उत्तरे, माहिती विचारल्यानंतर केला जाणारा आपमान आणि अगदीच वाद आणि जाब विचारण्याचे प्रकार झाले तर रुग्णाला आमच्यातून हलवा, अशी थेट दिली जाणारी धमकी यामुळे रुग्णांच्या नातेवाइकांना त्रास होत आहे. कोरोनाग्रस्तांवर स्वतंत्र वॉर्डात उपचार केले जातात. या वॉर्डात केवळ संबंधित डॉक्टर किंवा त्यांच्या परिचारिका यांना प्रवेश दिला जातो. नातेवाइकांना रुग्णाला भेटता येत नाही. त्यामुळे गंभीर असलेल्या रुग्णांच्या नातेवाइकांची दिवसभर घालमेल सुरू असते. आपल्या रुग्णांची तब्बेत कशी असेल, धोका टळला असेल काय? अजून किती दिवस रुग्णालयात ठेवावे लागेल? यासारख्या प्रश्नांबरोबरच रुणालयाचे बिल हा सर्वात मोठा प्रश्न नातेवाइकांसमोर असतो. अशा परिस्थितीत डॉक्टरांनी किमान रुग्णांच्या प्र.तीची माहिती व्यवस्थित देण्याबरोबरच, या प्रश्नांची उत्तरे द्यावीत, अशी अपेक्षा नातवाइकांची असते. थोडक्यात, डॉक्टर आणि रुग्रांचे नातेवाईक यांच्या संबंधामध्ये संघर्ष, संशय आणि दुरावा निर्माण होताना दिसून येत आहे. बरेच डॉक्टर सेवाभावी वृत्तीने काम करतात का? असा प्रश्न सामाजिक क्षेत्रात या महामारीदरम्यान निर्माण झाला आहे.

✤ बाल मजुरीत वाढ:

कोरोनाचा प्रादुर्भाव ओसरल्यानंतर कौटुंबिक उत्पन्न कमी होणे, स्थलांतर अशा कारणांमुळे बालमजुरांची संख्या वाढणार असल्याचे निरीक्षण विविध स्वयंसेवी संस्थांनी नोंदवले आहे. टाळेबंदीमुळे अनेकांना रोजगार गमवावा लागला आहे. मजुरांच्या स्थलांतरामुळे त्यांनाही नवा रोजगार शोधावा लागणार आहे. वाढणारी बेरोजगारी आणि त्यामुळे कुटुंबाच्या उत्पन्नात होणारी घट याचा परिणाम बालमजुरांची संख्या वाढण्यात होणार असल्याचे स्वयंसेवी संस्थांनी त्यांच्या अहवालांमध्ये नोंदवले आहे.महाराष्ट्रातील मुंबई, नाशिक, परभणी, पुणे, आणि सोलापूर अशा ५ जिल्ह्यांमध्ये क्राय संस्थेने सर्वेक्षण केले. त्यानुसार सध्या ३५ टक्के मुले आपल्या कुटुंबाच्या उदरनिर्वाहासाठी पूर्णवेळ किंवा अर्धवेळ काम करतात आणि नंतर आणखी चार टक्के मुलांची वाढ होईल. असा अंदाज नमूद केला आहे. आर्थिक.ष्ट्याा सक्षम नसणा–या लोकसंख्येत यंदा जवळ पास २० टक्क्यांनी वाढ होईल. अशा वेळी या कुटुंबातील मुले ही मजुरीकडे वळण्याची शक्यता आहे. ग्रामीण भागात शेती किंवा शेतमजुरीचे काम तर शहरी भागांत घरी किंवा कार्यालयात मदतनीस म्हणून काम करणा–या मुलांचे प्रमाण वाढेल. असा अंदाज या संस्थेने वर्तवला आहे.

अॉनलाइन शिक्षणाचा त्रास / शिक्षणापासून वंचितता:

टाळेबंदीच्या सुरुवातीला आकर्षक आणि कुत्तूहलाचा विषय ठरलेले ऑनलाइन शिक्षण मुलांसोबत पालकांसाठीही अधिकाधिक त्रासदायक ठरत आहे. सध्या शाळांनी ऑनलाईन अभ्यास सुरू केला आहे. तंत्रस्नेही नसलेल्या मुलांसोबत स्क्रीन समोर बसणे, गृहपाठ कागदावर लिहून घेणे आणि त्यांचा घरातल्या वातावरणात अभ्यास घेणे शक्य होताना दिसून येत नाही. घरी बसून शिकण्यासाठी विविध साहित्य लागते. त्याचा खर्च परवडत नाही व शिक्षण योग्य प्रकारे मिळत नाही. शैक्षणिक क्षेत्रामध्ये हा खूप मोठा परिणाम कोविड -१९ मुळे झाला आहे.

साधने उपलब्ध नसल्यामुळे आणि जागृकता नसल्यामुळे जवळपास ३० टक्के मुले शिक्षणापासून वंचित राहण्याची शक्यता असल्याचे नमूद केले आहे. क्राय संस्थेच्या सर्वेक्षणानुसार सध्या ७१टक्के मुलांनी अभ्यास सुरू ठेवल्याचे सांगितले परंतु ऑनलाइन अभ्यासासाठी डिजिटल साधनांचे अनुपलब्धता आहे. ग्रामीण भागातील ६४टक्के मुलांच्या सांगण्यानुसार त्यांचा अभ्यास पूर्णपणे बंद असून त्यांच्याकडे स्मार्टफोन देखील उपलब्ध नाही. फक्त २८टक्के मुलांनी ऑनलाइन शिक्षणाबद्दल ऐकले आहे. तर ४२टक्के मुलांनी दूरदर्शन वरील शैक्षणिक कार्यक्रमाबद्दल ऐकल्याचे सांगितले. थोडक्यात शिक्षणापासून वंचितता ही नवी सामाजिक समस्या निर्माण होत आहे.

🔄 तबलिकी जमातचा कार्यक्रम आणि धार्मिक संघर्ष:

तबलिकी जमातचा दिल्लीमध्ये मार्चच्या शेवटच्या आठवडचाामध्ये धार्मिक कार्यक्रम पार पडला. या कार्यक्रमांमध्ये देशातील विविध राज्य आणि परदेशातील अनेक लोक सहभागी झाले होते. त्यांच्याकडून कोरोना मार्गदर्शक नियमांचे काटेकोर पालन झाले नाही. त्यामुळे या कार्यक्रमास उपस्थित असणा–या अनेक लोकांना कोरोनाची लागण झाली. हे उपस्थित लोक आपल्या मूळ स्थानी गेल्यानंतर यांच्याकडून रोगाचा प्रसार झाला. असा आरोप अनेकांकडून होत राहिला. विविध माध्यमांमध्ये याबाबतीत साधक–बाधक चर्चा होऊन त्यातून धार्मिक तेढ निर्माण झाल्याचे दिसून येते.

↔ सण उत्सवावर बंधने:

सामाजिक भान राखत महाराष्ट्रातील सार्वजनिक मंडळांनी दहीहंडीचा उत्सव रद्द केला होता. सर्व धर्मियांनी आतापर्यंत अतिशय साधेपणाने सण साजरे केले आहेत. गणेश उत्सवामध्ये गणेश मूर्तीची उंची चार फूट ठेवण्याची मर्यादा घालण्यात आली होती. आगमन आणि विसर्जन मिरवणूकीवर मर्यादा घालण्यात आली होती. लोकांनी लग्नासारख्या आयुष्यातील सर्वोच्च आनंदाचा क्षण सुद्धा तडजोड केल्याचे दिसून आले. काही विवाह पुढे ढकलेले तर काहींनी कुटुंबातच उरकले. पुढील काळात होणा–या विविध सण उत्सवावर कोरोनामुळे बंधने आली आहेत.

वरील प्रमाणे कोरोना महामारीचे नकारात्मक सामाजिक परिणाम पहावयास मिळतात. यासंबंधी समाजामध्ये जाणीव जागृती होणे आवश्यक आहे. याचे दुरगामी परिणाम सामाजिक व्यवस्थेवर होऊ नयेत म्हणून समाजातील विविध घटकांनी सकारात्मक दृष्टीकोन अंगिकारणे आवश्यक आहे.

• कोरोना महामारीचे स्थलांतरित मजुरांवरील परिणामांची चर्चा आणि विश्लेषण :

लॉकडाऊनच्या अचानक जाहीर केलेल्या निर्णयाचा फटका संपूर्ण देशाला विविध प्रकारे झाल्याचे दिसून येत आहे. त्यात अपरंपार हालअपेष्टांना सामोरे गेले ते आपले घरदार आणि गाव सोडून अन्यत्र मोलमजुरीसाठी जाणे भाग पडलेले कष्टकरी कामगार. ठाणबंदीमुळे सारा देशच ठप्प झाला होता आणि पोटासाठी वणवण भटकत राहणा-यांना जागच्या जागी पायांत बेड्याा घातल्यासारखे अडकून पडावे लागले होते. ठाणबंदी वाढतच गेली. लॉकडाऊनमुळे वीटभट्टी कामगारांचे, फेरीवाल्यांचे, हमालांचे, शेतमजुरांचे, सफाई कर्मचा-यांचे, मोलकरणींचे, धाब्यावर, खानावळीत काम करणा-यांचे, मच्छिमारांचे, भटक्या-विमुक्तांचे, आदिवासी दलितांचे, प्रचंड आर्थिक, सामाजिक आणि मानसिक नुकसान झाले आहे.

• विविध सर्वेक्षणांच्या आधारे स्थलांतरितांचे अध्ययन:

कोरोना संकटाच्या काळात विविध संस्थांमार्फत मदतकार्याला सुरूवात करण्यात आली. सेंटर ऑफ लेबर रिसर्च (CLRA), हॅबिटॅट फोरम (INHAF) आणि मशाल या संस्थांनी स्थलांतरीत मजूर, असंघटित क्षेत्रातील कामगार आणि झोपडपट्टीतील लोकांच्या मदतीसाठी कामाला सुरुवात केली. पण या लोकांपर्यत पोहोचताना या संस्थांना काही गोष्टी जाणवल्या. कामाच्या ठिकाणी अडकलेल्या या लोकांना तातडीने कशाची गरज आहे, हे जाणून घेण्यासाठी एक जलद सर्वेक्षण केले.

२३ एप्रिल ते १ मे २०२० या काळात ५९२ स्थलांतरीत मजूर, असंघटित क्षेत्रातील कामगार यांची फोनवरुन मुलाखत घेण्यात आली. यामध्ये गुजरात, राजस्थान आणि महाराष्ट्रातील मजूर आणि कामगारांचा समावेश होता. सर्वेक्षणातील मजुरांची संख्या कमी होती. पण या कष्टकरी गटांच्या वेगवेगळ्या उत्तरांमधून समानधागा शोधण्याचा प्रयत्न संशोधकांनी केला आहे. यामध्ये ऊसतोड कामगार, शेतमजूर, कापड उद्योगातील कामगार, वीटभट्टीवरील मजूर, बांधकाम क्षेत्रातील मजूर, घरकाम करणारे आणि रोजंदारीवर काम करणा-या कामगाराचा समावेश होता.

सर्वेक्षणातील काही निष्कर्ष:

बहुतांश मजूर, कामगारांकडे आधारकार्ड आहे. काही मोजक्या लोकांचेच बँक खाते किंवा रेशनकार्ड आहे. कामगार आणि मजुरांना लॉकडाऊनच्या काळात कोणतेही वेतन किंवा मोबदला दिला गेला नाही. मजुरांनी मालकांसंदर्भातल्या तक्रारींचा पाढा वाचला. यात मालकांच्या वागणुकीत झालेला नकारात्मक बदल, मालकांशी संपर्काचे कोणतेही साधन नसल्याने पगाराबाबत विचारण्याची सोय नाही आणि काहींना तर मालकाने जबरदस्तीने काम करण्यास लावल्याच्या तक्रारींचा समावेश होता. तर दुसरीकडे राजस्थानमधील वीटभट्टी मजुरांनी त्यांचा मोबदला नंतर मिळणार असल्याचे सांगितले. तीन राज्यांमध्ये बिगर शासकीय संस्थांनी ;छळदेद्ध राज्य सरकारांसोबत मदतकार्यात मोठी भूमिका बजावली.

मजूर स्थलांतर करतात तेव्हा दुस-या राज्यात सार्वजनिक वितरण व्यवस्थेचा लाभ त्यांना घेता येत नाही. आधारकार्डचा उपयोग त्यांना थेट लाभ मिळण्यासाठी होत नाही. त्यामुळेच आपत्कालीन परिस्थितीत गरजूंना अन्नधान्य उपलब्ध व्हावे यासाठी सार्वजनिक वितरण व्यवस्थेचे सार्वत्रिकीकरण होणे गरजेचे आहे. बँक खात्याऐवजी थेट हातात रोख पैसे देण्याची गरज दिसून येते. बहुतांश मजुरांची बँकेत खाती नाहीत. त्यामुळे खात्यांमध्ये पैसे टाकण्याचा उपयोग नाही. त्यापेक्षा योग्य ती यंत्रणा उभारुन या कामगारांना थेट रोख रक्कम पोहोचवली पाहिजे.

मजुरांच्या बदलत्या गरजांनुसार मदतीचे स्वरुप असावे. फिल्डवर कामगारांच्या बदलत्या गरजांनुसार मदतीचे स्वरुप बदलण्याची गरज आहे. सुरूवातीला अन्नाची पाकिटे किंवा धान्याच्या स्वरुपात मदत केली गेली. पण नंतर त्यांना स्वयंपाकासाठी इंधन, पिण्याचे पाणी, वापरासाठीचे पाणी इ. असते. थोडक्यात कामगारांना देण्यात आलेल्या मदतीमध्ये बिगर शसकीय संस्थांनी ;छळवेद्ध, बचतगट आणि कामगारांच्या गटांचा मोठा उपयोग झाला आहे. या संशोधनाचे निष्कर्ष असंघटित क्षेत्रातील कामगारांचे नेमके प्रश्न काय आहेत आणि मदतीचे स्वरुप कसे असावे याचे स्पष्टीकरण देतात.

• स्थलांतरिताच्या प्रश्नांविषयी सरकारी अनास्था:

लॉकडाऊनच्या काळात दोन प्रकारच्या लोकांच्या समस्या दिसून येतात. जे परदेशात अडकले होते ते मध्यमवर्गीय, उच्चमध्यमवर्गीय पर्यटक, विद्यार्थी, व्यापारी, उद्योग, व्यवसाय, करणारे व अनिवासी भारतीय. दुसरे म्हणजे भारतातल्या छोट्याा मोठ्याा शहरात अडकले होते ते सामान्य मजूर आणि कामगार. पहिल्या समुदायासाठी भारत सरकारने विमान पाठवून व्यवस्था केली आणि कल्याणकारी राज्य असल्याप्रमाणे त्या हजारोंना परदेशातून मोफत सुखरुप माघारी आणले. परंतु देशातल्या असंघटित कामगारासाठी काहीच केले नाही. भारतातल्या सामान्य मजुरांना इतकी विषम वागणूक का मिळाली? आपण आपल्या देशात आहोत, हा आत्मविश्वास या कष्टक-यांना होता. परंतु दळणवळणाची साधनं बंद झाल्यावर त्यांची अवस्था त्रिशंकू झाली होती. लाखो मजूर हजारो कि.मी पायी आपल्या गावी पाहोचले. यामध्ये स्थलांतरिताच्या प्रश्नांविषयी सरकारी अनास्था दिसून येते.

संसदेच्या पावसाळी अधिवेशनामध्ये स्थलांतरिताच्या विषयी उपस्थित करण्यात आलेल्या प्रश्नाच्या उत्तरात गृह राज्यमंर्ष्यानी दिलेले उत्तर सरकारी कातडीबचाऊपणाचे नमुनेदार उदाहरण म्हणावे लागेल. या स्थलांतरितांच्या झालेल्या फरपटीला अफवा आणि फेक न्यूज जबाबदार आहेत, असे गृह राज्यमंर्ष्यानी सांगितले. अशी परिस्थिती निर्माण होऊ शकते, याचा अंदाज घेण्यात सरकार कमी पडले, हे मान्य न करता दिलेले हे स्पष्टीकरण आहे, हे उघड आहे. अफवांचा त्या काळात सुळसुळाट झाला होता, हे खरे असले तरी केवळ तेवढ्यााने घडलेल्या या शोकांतिका आहेत, असे म्हणणे हे प्रश्नाचे गांभीर्य कमी करण्यासारखे आहे. रेल्वे तसेच रस्ता वाहतूक या 'लॉकडाउन'मुळे बंद पडली होती, तेव्हा पायपीट करतच घराच्या दिशेने वाटचाल सुरू करण्याशिवाय श्रमिकांपुढे पर्याय नव्हता. अनेकांचे भुकेपोटी वा रानावनात विश्रांतीसाठी पाठ टेकलेली असताना झालेले अपघात वा प्र.तीच्या तक्रारींमुळे बळी गेले. केंद्रिय रस्ते आणि वाहतूक मंष्यानी संसदेत सादर केलेल्या माहिती नुसार मार्च ते जून २०२० दरम्यान १.०६ कोटी स्थलांतरित मजूर चालत त्यांच्या मूळ घराकडे पोहोचलेत. स्थलांतरितांच्या या हालअपेष्टांविषयीची संवेदनशीलता या निवेदनात जाणवली नाही. घराकडे निघालेल्या आणि वाटेतच मृत्युपुखी पडलेल्या या स्थलांतरितांच्या क्ट्रंबीयांना काही साह्य करण्यात आले काय, या प्रश्नावर लेखी उत्तरात केंद्रीय कामगारमंष्यानी अशी काहीही नोंद सरकारदरबारी नसल्याने त्यांना मदत देण्याचा प्रश्नच उद्भवत नाही, असे ठामपणे सांगितले होते. हा जबाबदारी झटकण्याचा प्रकार नव्हे काय? खरे तर अशा २३८ मृत्यूंची नोंद 'इंडिया टुडे' या नियतकालिकाने, त्याबाबतची आकडेवारी नावानिशीवार २८ मे रोजीच प्रसिद्ध केली होती. त्यानुसार असे सर्वाधिक म्हणजे ९९मृत्यू उत्तर प्रदेशात, त्याखालोखाल मध्य प्रदेशात ३४ आणि महाराष्ट्रात ३१ श्रमिकांना हकनाक प्राण गमवावे लागल्याचे दिसत होते. सरकारने आजतागायत या आकडेवारीस आक्षेप घेतलेला नाही. कोरोनाचा संसर्ग रोखण्यासाठी ठाणबंदी आवश्यक होती, केंद्राने ती केल्यानंतरच रेल्वेसेवा ठप्प झाली आणि या मजुरांचे जे काही अतोनात हाल झाले, त्यास प्रामुख्याने रेल्वेबंदीच कारणीभूत ठरली, हे स्पष्ट आहे. त्यातूनच मग त्यांच्यासाठी विशेष श्रमिक रेल्वेगाड्याा सोडणे भाग पडले. हे सारे अवघ्या पाच-सहा महिन्यांतील चित्र आहे. सरकार मात्र त्याचा गांभीर्याने विचार करण्याऐवजी आपली या कष्टकरीवर्गाबाबतची अनास्था आणि असंवेदनशीलता याचेच प्रदर्शन करत आहे. लॉकडाऊन जाहीर करतानाही, समाजातील या घटकाला या सगळ्यामुळे नक्की काय फटका बसेल याचा अंदाज कोणत्याच यंत्रणेने घेतलेला नव्हता असे स्पष्ट होते आहे. श्रीमंत आणि मध्यमवर्गीयांना होणा-या त्रासाची चर्चा होते, तो त्रास कमी करण्यासाठी धडपड करण्यात येते. पण समाजातील या वर्गासाठी काय करायचे, याबदल कोणीच काही बोलत नाही.

• कोरोना आजारावरील प्रतिबंधात्मक उपाय:

कोणत्याही प्रयोग, विज्ञान आणि तंत्रज्ञानात चाचण्यांच्या आधारे संभाव्य संसर्ग झालेला कोव्हीड –१९ ग्रस्त रुग्णाच्या उपचारासाठी विशेष उपचार पद्धतीचे पुरावे हाती आलेले नाहीत. अपु–या वैद्यकीय दस्तावेजांमुळे, श्वसन रोगांनी ग्रस्त अशा रुग्णांच्या उपचाराकरिता विशिष्ट विषाणूविरोधी औषध उपचारांची शिफारस करण्यात आलेली नाही.

जागतिक आरोग्य संघटनेने निर्देशीत केल्यानुसार साबणाने हात धुणे, अल्कोहोल पासून बनविण्यात आलेल्या हात धुण्याचे द्रवण (हॅंड सॅनिटायझर) वापरणे, मास्कचा वापर करणे, सामाजिक अंतर राखणे, डोळे, नाक व तोंडाला स्पर्श टाळणे तसेच श्वसनाशी संबंधित स्वच्छतेच्या सवयीं चा अवलंब करण्यामूळे संसर्गाचा धोका टाळता येईल. योग्य वेळी केलेल्या प्रभावी आणि सुरक्षित रोग निवारणाच्या पद्धती हा कोव्हीड -१९ च्या तिव्रतेला आळा घालण्यासाठीच्या प्रयत्नांचा आधारस्तंभ आहे. कोव्हीड -१९ विरोधी लस निर्माण करण्याचे प्रयत्न जगभरातील संशोधकांकडून विविध टप्प्यांवर सुरु आहेत. परंतु अदयाप कोणतीही लस उपलब्ध नाही.

IV. निष्कर्ष:

कोरोना महामारीच्या परिस्थितीमध्ये आरोग्य कर्मचारी यामध्ये प्रामुख्याने डॉक्टर, नर्स आणि इतर वैदयकीय व्यावसायिक कर्मचारी हे या अडचणीच्या काळामध्ये सार्वजनिक सामाजिक आरोग्य जपण्यासाठी औषधे व इतर सेवा देण्यासाठी अहोरात्र कष्ट करीत आहेत. स्वच्छता कर्मचारी आणि पोलिस हे कोविड -१९ च्या आव्हानांना सामोरे जाताना समाजासाठी निरपेक्ष झटत आहेत. या सर्वाचा आपण आदर आणि अभिनंदन करणे आवश्यक आहे. कोरोनामुळे जे सकारात्मक सामाजिक परिमणाम दिसून येतात ते समाजहितासाठी फायदेशीर ठरत आहेत. परंतु जे नकारात्मक सामाजिक परिणाम घडून आलेले आहेत त्याच्यावर विचारमंथन होणे आवश्यक आहे. यामध्ये लॉकडाऊनमुळे असंघटित क्षेत्रातल्या कामगारांच्यावर गंभीर परिणाम झालेले आहेत. त्यांना सरकारने मदत करणे आवश्यक आहे. महिलांना आदर आणि सन्मानाची वागणूक देणे आवश्यक आहे. महिला सक्षमीकरणाची चळवळ पुढे चालवण्यासाठी सर्व घटकांचे सहाचय आवश्यक आहे. रोजगार निर्मितीसाठी आता शेतीवर भर देणे आवश्यक आहे. सामाजिक अणि मानसिक आरोग्य जपण्यासाठी खास कृती / कार्यक्रम आवश्यक आहेत.

सामाजिक माध्यमांवर सत्य आणि खात्रीपूर्वक माहितीच प्रसारित करावी. जागतिक आरोग्य संघटना आणि भारत सरकारच्या आरोग्य आणि कुटुंब कल्याण मंत्रालयाकडून त्यांच्या संकेतस्थळावर प्रकाशित झालेली खरी माहिती प्रसारित करावी. आजारातून पूर्णपणे बरे झालेल्या लोकांचे सकारात्मक अनुभव प्रसारित करणे. कोरोना हा विषाणू एवढचाात आपली पाठ सोडणार नाही. लॉकडाऊनचा पर्याय तहहयात चालू शकणारही नाही. त्यामुळे प्रत्येकाने स्वच्छतेचे सर्व नियम पाळलेच पाहिजेत. डॉक्टरांनी या कठीण समयी सेवाभावी वृत्तीने काम करणे. अपेक्षित आहे. सरकारने अनेक पातळ्यांवर काम करणे अपेक्षित आहे. जसे आरोग्यावरील खर्च वाढवणे, जिल्हा रूग्णालयांमध्ये पदवीपर्यत वैद्यकीय शिक्षणाची सोय करणे. डॉक्टरांची संख्या वाढवणे. प्राथमिक आरोग्याला महत्व देऊन अशी केंद्रे वाढवणे. परिचारिका व रूग्णालय संबंधित इतर मनुष्यबळाचा विकास करणे. खरे तर भारतीय प्रशासकीय सेवेच्या धर्तीवर भारतीय आरोग्य सेवा सुरू करायला हवी. तरच आरोग्य खात्याला योग्य न्याय मिळेल. त्यामुळे अशा महामारीत आपण आपल्या समाजाला गंभीर धोक्यांपासून वाचवू शकतो.

संदर्भ सुची:

- महामारी मार्गदर्शिका, कोरोनाव्हायरसची महामारी समजण्यासाठी आणि पासून संरक्षण करण्यासाठीचे सूलभ मार्गदर्शक संपादक – पी. जे. जॉर्ज (लेखक आर प्रसाद, बिंदू शाजन पेराप्पडन, ज्योती शेलार आणि जेकब कोशी)
- R) Impact of Covid-19 on Social-Economic state of Indian Farmers ,by Suvhas Chand, Kailabh Chandra etc. Food and Scientific Reports – ISSN 2582 – 5437 June 2020, Volume.1 Issue 6
- https:// www.emerald.com/ insight/ 1742-7371.htm, Social Economic Impact of Covid-19 outbreak in India' by Sandeep Kumar Maheswari V., Prabhu J. etc,
- ४) मॅक्स रिपोर्ट लॉकडाऊनमुळे मजूर आणि कामगारांचं जग 'रेड' झोनमध्ये! मॅक्स रिपोर्ट १७, मे २०२०
- चतूःसुत्र लोकसत्ता, २ एप्रिल २०२०, 'शहरांचे असहाय्य सुत्रधार आणि आशेचा सोपान', श्रुती तांबे यांचा लेख
- ६) महाराष्ट्र टाइम्स,कोल्हापूर, १९.०४.२०२०, 'कोरोनाच्या ग्रहणातून मुक्ती.'
- ७) महाराष्ट्र टाइम्स, कोल्हापूर, २२.०४.२०२०, 'निसर्ग विरुध्द मानव'
- ८) महाराष्ट्र टाइम्स, कोल्हापूर, २३.०४.२०२०, 'लॉकडाऊनचे भयाण वास्तव.'
- ९) महाराष्ट्र टाइम्स, कोल्हापूर, २६ जून २०२०, डॉ. हर्षद भोसले यांचा लेख 'कोरोनाचे सामाजिक दुष्परिणाम.'
- १०) दैनिक लोकसत्ता, पुणे, ०९.०६.२०२०
- ११) दैनिक लोकसत्ता, पुणे, १०.०६.२०२०
- १२) दैनिक लोकसत्ता, पुणे, ११.०६.२०२०
- १३) दैनिक लोकसत्ता, पुणे, १८.०६.२०२०
- १४) दैनिक लोकसत्ता, पुणे, २०.०६.२०२०

- १५) दैनिक लोकसत्ता, पुणे, २३.०६.२०२०
- १६) दैनिक लोकसत्ता, पुणे, २९.०६.२०२०
- १७) कोल्हापूर सकाळ, पुणे, १८.०९.२०२०, संपादकीय स्थलांतरितांचे अंतरंग.'
- १८) सकाळ २३.९.२०२० 'झळा संकटाच्या अन् विषमतेच्या', प्रज्ञा शिदोरे यांचा लेख
- १९) The Times of India, 23-09-2020
- २०) सकाळ २४.०९.२०२० 'गरज भारतीय आरोग्य सेवेची', डॉ. सुहास पिंगळे यांचा लेख
- २१) कोल्हापूर सकाळ २५.०९.२०२, 'सामाजिक आरोग्य ही काळाची गरज', डॉ. संगीता शिरोडे यांचा लेख.



An Overview on the Memorial stone, Rock edicts and Copper plates

Vishwanath M Ainapur¹

Abstract

India is one of the Ancient countries in the world with its unique knowledge culture and Civilization. The most important source of information on our history after literature is inscriptions. Indian inscriptions engraved into stone or other durable materials, or etched into metal, are an important historical source beginning from the third century B.C.E. The vast majority are found in South India, written on plates of copper, the stone walls of temples, or stone monuments. An estimated 100,000 inscriptions have now been found, and many of these have been cataloged and translated. These inscriptions corroborate information from other sources, give the dates and locations of significant events, trace detailed royal genealogies, and provide an insight into early Indian political structure, legal codes, and religious practices. They also document the development and use of written languages in India. Ancient Indian History - Sources are Literary and Archaeological records are the two main categories that give evidences of Ancient Indian History. Epigraphy is the study of inscriptions. Epigraphic evidences form the most reliable source of ancient history and they are engraved on stone tablets, metal plates, pillars, walls of caves, etc. The inscriptions represent various languages at different places and period of time. Some inscriptions give details about the political and religious activities of that time

Keywords: Indian history, Sources, Memorial stone, Inscriptions, Emperies

Introduction:

Archaeology the study of the human passed through material remains is closely connected

Asst. Teacher Government, Kannada Boys School Raibag E-mail: vishwaainapur775@gmail.com. Contact : +91 9591409586

to history. Epigraphy the study of inscription is known as epigraphy, Inscription occupies a unique position as a source material of Indian history. They are inscribed on stone and metals and cannot be altered subtracted from or added to. There is various kind of inscription Commercial, magical, religious and administrative logistic, votive, commemorative, literally.About 25,000 inscriptions found in Karnataka[1] belongs to Kannada rulers like Kadambas, Western Ganga Dynasty, Rashtrakuta, Chalukya, Hoysala and Vijayanagara Empire. Many inscriptions related to Buddhism and Jainism is unearthed. The inscriptions generally found are on stone (Shilashasana) or copper plates (Tamarashasana). The Kannada inscriptions (Old Kannada, Kadamba script) found on historical Hero Stone, coin and temple wall, piller, tablet and rock edict. The inscriptions found are in Proto Kannada, Pre Old Kannada, Old Kannada, Middle Kannada and New Kannada.

According to the professor Rapson in inscription supply most valuable evidence as to the political social and economic condition of the people and the country to which they belong some of the edits of Ashoka are administrative records and others are religious Proclamations.

Memorial Stones / Hero Stones

The custom of erecting memorial stones dates back to the Iron Age (1000 BCE–600BCE) though a vast majority were erected between the 5th and 13th centuries AD. Usually they are in the form of a stone monument and may have an inscription at the bottom with a narrative of the battle. According to the historian Upinder Singh, the largest concentration of such memorial stones is found in the Indian state of Karnataka. Inscriptions vary according to the writing material. Most widely they are engraved on rocks or stones. The other sources of the inscription are palm leaves, plates made from copper, gold or silver which usually are records like donations given to institutions, sale deed, musical compositions, etc. In general, the inscriptions engraved on rocks are Edicts of the rulers: Achievements made by the ruler.

Best of inscriptions found in Karnataka are Memorial Stones which depict a heroic story. In their commemoration the village men or his relatives erected a stone in front of the temple or in village. These memorial stones are classified accordingly to the content of their text and sculpture found on them. They are found with or without inscriptions.

1 A hero stone

A hero stone (Viragallu in Kannada, Natukal in Tamil)[1] is a memorial commemorating the honorable death of a hero in battle. Erected between the 3rd century BC and the 18th century AD, hero stones are found all over India. They often carry inscriptions displaying a variety of adornments, including bas relief panels, frieze, and figures on carved stone. Usually they are in the form of a stone monument and may have an inscription at the bottom with a narrative of the battle. According to the historian Upinder Singh, the largest concentration of such memorial stones is found in the Indian state of Karnataka. About two thousand six hundred and fifty hero stones, the earliest dated to the 5th century have been discovered in Karnataka. Hero Stone erected in memory of heroes who sacrificed life in a battle field while defending king or public, or defending the cattle or women in distress. A hero stone was usually divided into three panels, but occasionally, into four or five panels depending on the event. The upper panel depicts the subject worshiping a deity such as a Shiva linga, the middle panel depicts the hero sometimes seated in a palanquin or a shrine being lifted toward the heavens by apsaras (heavenly nymphs), and the lower panels would display battle scenes[5] One of the largest Viragallu, about 12 feet high is found in Betageri, Karnataka.

Memorial for Brave Dogs: An inscription from Mulbagal Taluka of 950 A.D. gives a brief account of two brave dogs, Loga and Thalaga. They accompanied their master, son of Parasandi, in numerous hunting expeditions in which 75 boars were killed by Loga and 25 by Thalaga. One is naturally curious to know the breed of such outstanding dogs. Fortunately the hero-stone of Kattigenhalli gives a good illustration of the dogs. The upper half of the hero-stone illustrates Loga and the lower Thalaga. They belonged to the species of hunting dogs which might have been brought from Banavasi, Mudhol and Andhra Pradesh. It is very evident that they were well fed, cared for, and trained for hunting. **The Hero of Nelavagilu:** A huge hero-stone of Nalavagilu (Hoskote taluka of Bangalore district in Karnataka) depicts a severe fight between the hero and a bore. A descendant of this man's family narrated the incident which has been remembered from one generation to the other by word of mouth. The hero was all set to celebrate the great festival of Yugadi (Hindu New Year) and was about to partake the feast when the news came that a wild boar which was playing havoc to the crops for quite some time was sighted in a field. Without a second thought, the hero left with two of his hunting dogs to kill the boar. But he never returned to enjoy the feast. In the fight that ensued the hero got killed along with the boar. In his memory, to this day, his successors do not celebrate the Yugadi festival. But for this tradition, the hero-stone could not have been understood.

Saviyabbe: A damaged inscription of Shravanabelagola of the tenth century fails to give details on Saviyabbe's end the details are affected. But the illustration that accompanies the inscription compensates this lapse. The gallant lady riding her horse engages her powerful enemy riding an elephant. The sheer physical strength of the enemy did not deter Saviyabbe. She must have fought with all the strength she could command and in the process got killed. But for this illustration, we would have been totally ignorant of this heroic lady.

2 Masti / Maha Sati / Mastikallu:

Sati stones' or 'Mast stones' constitutes a different category. Here the woman has to perform either a 'sahagamana' or 'anugamana' voluntarily which involves burning herself on the funeral pyre. She was given the status of a 'Maha Sati' (masti) after this event and a stone was erected in order to commemorate the event. These stones are very simple and they do not even mention the name of the woman. They portray a woman in isolation or in the company of her husband. One of her hands will be raised in benediction and she will be holding a lemon in the other. Masti stones are found in abundance particularly during the tenth and eleventh centuries. Some memorials depict just the right hand and nothing else. 'Decibel's Inscription' is an instance. Once in a while these satis are deified and temples are built around their memorials.

3 Darmika / Religious:Inscriptions are also available on bells, earthen pots, etc. Label inscriptions consist of the name of the devotee or donor in temples.

4 Nisidige stones:Nisidige stones comprise the third and final category. Jaina monks, after having decided to renounce their lives by taking up a wow to fast un to death were commemorated by these stones. Such fasts were known as 'sallekhanas'. Many rocks in Shravana Belagola have such niSdhI shAsana inscribed on them. M. G. Manjunath an epigraphist Mysore based scholar discovered 400 AD Gunabhushitana Nishadi inscription of Jainism one of the 271 inscriptions on Chandragiri hill of Shravanabelagola found near Parshwanatha Basadi, which is 50 years older than Halmidi inscription. It is mentioned in the Epigraphia Karnataka. There are Prakrit, Sanskrit and Purvada Halegannada (Old Kannada words. The four lined inscription has six words. The inscription is in Shatavahana Brahmi and Aadi Ganga script. M. Chidananda Murthy also agree that Gunabhushitana Nishadi Shasana was a Kannada inscription (in Purvada Halegannada script)

Copper plate inscriptions

Copper plate inscriptions play an important role in the reconstruction of the history of India. Prior to their discovery, historians were forced to rely on ambiguous archaeological findings such as religious text of uncertain origin and interpretations of bits of surviving traditions, patched together with travel journals of foreign visitors along with a few stone inscriptions. The discovery of Indian copper plate inscriptions provided a relative abundance of new evidence for use in evolving a chronicle of India's elusive history. Inscriptions on copper plates play an important role in reconstructing history. Prior to their discovery, historians were forced to rely on ambiguous archaeological findings such as religious texts of uncertain origin. These plates usually record grants or lists of royal lineages carrying the royal seal. For instance, one of the plates reveal that in the year 683 on the day of a lunar eclipse, Telgi village, situated on the northern bank of the Krishna river in Baswan Bagewadi taluka of Vijapur district, Karnataka, was gifted to a scholar from the Gautam Gotra by Vinayaditya, a king from the Chalukyan dynasty.

Some of the earliest authenticated copper plates were issued by the Pallava dynasty

kings in the 4th century, and are in Prakrit and Sanskrit. An example of early Sanskrit inscription in which Kannada words are used to describe land boundaries, are the Tumbula inscriptions of Western Ganga Dynasty, which have been dated to 444 according to a 2004 Indian newspaper report. Rare copper plates from the Gupta period have been found in North India. The use of copper plate inscriptions increased and for several centuries they remained the primary source of legal records.

Example of a Chola inscription in Tamil from the 12th century CE. The Sohgaura copper plate inscription, the earliest known of its kind, 3rd century BCE. The Taxila copper plate, 1st century BCE (British Museum). Paramara ruler Siyaka's Harsola copper plate copper plate of 949 CE. At Chandravalli there is a rock inscription of the first Kannada dynasty Kadambas founder Mayurasharma (345 CE) found in the Bhairaweshwara temple. The so-called Sohgaura copper-plate inscription, inscribed in the Brahmi Script, and possibly from the 3rd century BCE Maurya Empire, is a precursor to the later copper-plate inscriptions. However, it is actually written on a small plaque of copper The Taxila and the Kalawan copperplate inscriptions are among the earliest known instances of copper plates being used for writing in the Indian subcontinent. However, these are not proper charters, unlike the later copper-plate inscriptions.

Most copper plate inscriptions record title-deeds of land-grants made to Brahmanas, individually or collectively. The inscriptions followed a standard formula of identifying the royal donor and his lineage, followed by lengthy honorifics of his history, heroic deeds, and his extraordinary personal traits. After this would follow the details of the grant, including the occasion, the recipient, and the penalties involved if the provisions were disregarded or violated. Although the profusion of complimentary language can be misleading, the discoveries of copper plate inscriptions have provided a wealth of material for historians...

Rock edicts

Rock edicts, narrative histories and announcements carved into cliff rock, onto pillars, and in caves throughout India by King Ashoka (reigned c. 265–238 bce), the most

powerful emperor of the Mauryan dynasty and a highly influential promulgator of Indian Buddhism. Indian Emperor Ashoka refer to 14 separate major Edicts of Ashoka which are significantly detailed and represent some of the earliest dated rock inscriptions of any Indian monarch. The Maski version of Minor Rock Edict No.1 was historically especially important in that it confirmed the association of the title «Devanampriya"

Brahmagiri rock inscription of Ashoka rock edict at Brahmagiri in Chitradurga district is the ancient site of Ishila. An inscription there contains this most ancient Kannada word. The earliest recorded word of Kannada is Isila occurring in the Brahmagiri rock inscription of 252 BC Tagarthi inscription.

Grant of land, Agrahara Dana: Gift of villages, Pura Dana –Gift of Town, Umbali Dana, Nettaru Koduge or Grant given for Heroic Deed and Donation to the Temple, Nirmana lakes. **Eulogies**: They praise the kings and officials and are usually written by the court poet. Some of the very rare inscriptions come under this category. Such inscription gives the eulogy of a King and does not mention any grant.

The Hathigumpha inscription ("Elephant Cave" inscription) from Udayagiri near Bhubaneshwar in Orissa was written by Kharavela, the king of Kalinga in India during the second century B.C.E. The Hathigumpha inscription consists of seventeen lines incised in deep cut Brahmi letters on the overhanging brow of a natural cavern called Hathigumpha on the southern side of the Udayagiri hill near Bhubaneswar in Orissa. It faces straight toward the rock Edicts of Asoka at Dhauli located about six miles away

Halmidi inscription

The 5th century AD[9][10] Halmidi inscription 16-line earliest Kannada inscription found at Halmidi in Belur taluk of Hassan district on rectangular sandstone has a Vishnu Chakra on its top. The language of the inscription is in Poorvada Halegannada. Archaeologist M. H. Krishna found the Brahmi script in the inscription. Shifted the inscription to Archaeological Museum, Mysore and later to Government Museum in Bangalore. Epigraphia Karnataka has dedicated a chapter to study of the inscription. The linguists and writers Govinda Pai, M. Chidananda Murthy, T. V. Venkatachala Sastry, Ram Sri Mugali, R.S. Panchamukhi, D.L. Narasimhachar, and M. M. Kalburgi studied the inscription and published papers. Writers including G. S. Gai, T. A. Gopinatha Rao, T. N. Srikantaiah, Shivarama Aithala, S. Nagaraju, S. Srikanta Sastri, M. Mariyappa Bhatta, M. B. Neginahal, K. V. Ramesh, Devarakondareddy and K. M. Hanumantha Rao have discussed the important issues raised by Halmidi inscription in their books.Since 1886 there have been systematic attempts to collect and catalogue these inscriptions, along with the translation and publication of documents.[16] Inscriptions may be in the Brahmi or Tamil-Brahmi script. Royal inscriptions were also engraved on copper-plates as were the Indian copper plate inscriptions. The Edicts of Ashoka contain Brahmi script and its regional variant, Tamil-Brahmi, was an early script used in the inscriptions in cave walls of Tamil Nadu and later evolved into the Tamil Vatteluttu alphabet.[17] The Bhattiprolu alphabet, as well as a variant of Brahmi, the Kadamba alphabet, of the early centuries BCE gave rise to the Telugu-Kannada alphabet, which developed into the Kannada and Telugu scripts

Conclusion :

Epigraphy refers to the study of inscriptions engraved upon various surfaces such as stone, metal, wood, clay tablets, or even wax, which may vary hugely in length from mere abbreviated words and administrative tablets to depicting entire official decrees. The number of known inscriptions, moreover, is constantly growing as new records, including many of considerable importance, continue to be discovered within and outside of India every year. The nature of the materials and techniques used for inscriptions is closely tied to the external purpose of the record itself. Thus, inscriptions may be divided into monumental, archival, and incidental. Monumental inscriptions were intended for enduring display and were therefore, as a rule, executed in lasting material, such as stone or metal. Maximal exposure to mortal eyes need not have been the prime purpose of their originators—e.g., the tomb chambers of Egyptian pharaohs, intended to be sealed forever, had their inner surfaces covered with monumental hieroglyphs

References:

- 1 Keay, John (2000). *India: A History*. New York: Grove Press.
- 2 R. Umamaheshwari (2018). Reading History with the Tamil Jainas: A Study on Identity, Memory and Marginalisation
- 3 Varma, Nikhil (2018-08-07). "Tryst with stone". The Hindu.
- 4 Basham, A. L.(1975) *A Cultural history of India*. Oxford: Clarendon Press
- 5 Archaeological Survey of India Collections, taken by William Henry Cornish in c. 1892
- 6 Singh, Upinder (2008). A History of Ancient and Early Medieval India: From the Stone Age to the 12th Century
- 7 Salomon, Richard (1998). Indian Epigraphy: A Guide to the Study of Inscriptions in Sanskrit, Prakrit, and the Other Indo-Aryan Languages. Oxford University Press,
- 8 Kamil Veith Zvelebil, Companion Studies to the History of Tamil Literature
- *Rice, Benjamin Lewis (1894).* Epigraphia Carnatica: Volume IX: Inscriptions in the Bangalore District. Mysore State, British India: Mysore Department of Archaeology. Retrieved 5 August 2015.

GUIDELINES FOR CONTRIBUTORS

- 1] **Journal of Shivaji University (Humanities and Social Sciences)** is the publication of Shivaji University, Kolhapur (Maharashtra, India), being published twice a year. It is an academic double blind and peer reviewed ISSN approved Journal.
- 2] The Journal welcomes articles/papers based on original research by the faculty and research scholars working in various fields of Arts, Education, Law Social Science disciplines, Languages and Literature [Marathi, Hindi and English]. Articles/Papers can be submitted in English, Hindi or Marathi.
- 3] The **length** of the article/research paper **should not exceed 5000 words** (word limit is inclusive of references and notes).
- 4] The article/paper must accompany an **abstract not exceeding 200 words.** Abstract should be placed in the text box just below the title of the article and before Introduction on first page.
- 5] Article/research paper must be typed on A-4 size paper in double space. The preferred wordprocessing format is Microsoft Word [use Times New Roman, 12 pt. font size]. The authors writing their contributions in Marathi and Hindi are requested to make use of **'Shrilipi'** software for typing of the manuscripts. [Use Shrilipi 708, 14pt. font size].
- 6] All the sources of literature referred to while writing the article/paper must be properly cited in the text. The serial numbers of End Notes, if any, must also be indicated within text at appropriate places.
- 7] The listing of references must follow the alphabetical order as per APA style.
- 8] Follow the endnote pattern: Serialize all explanatory notes in the sequence in which they are referred to in the text (using numbered superscripts) and place them at the end of the text under **Notes**, but **before References**. Endnotes must not be used for bibliographic purposes.
- 9] Tables, charts, maps, figures etc. should be placed at appropriate places in the text of the article/paper and must be numbered serially with suitable headings. The tables should be referred to by their numbers within the text. Art-work for maps, figures and charts should be provided separately, if necessary.
- 10] Only articles evaluated and approved by the subject Experts/Referees are considered for their publication in the Journal. The referees evaluate Article/ Paper drafts in term of structure and organization of paper/argument, originality of the research, appropriateness of abstract and introduction, literature review, methodology and data sources, data/evidence and conclusions, and quality of language.
- 11] The name of the author/co-author of the article being submitted should appear only on separate article information sheet to be submitted along with the text of the article. The author's/Co-author's name should not be mentioned on the first page of the article/paper or it should not be directly or indirectly indicated anywhere in the entire text of the article'
- 12] For any other information and for inquiries regarding submitted articles/papers preferably use e-mail communications. (E-mail id: editorjsu@unishivaji.ac.in)
 Only research articles/papers prepared strictly in accordance with the above guidelines will be sent to referees for their evaluation and opinion about their acceptability or otherwise. We do not send back rejected articles.

