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## RESEARCH ARTICLE

### AGRARIAN CRISIS AND FARMER SUICIDE AND IT IMPACT OF MIGRATION IN INDIA

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#### ABSTRACT

Agriculture has always been the backbone of the Indian economy and despite concerted industrialisation in the seven decades; agriculture still occupies a place of pride. About 67 per cent of the work-force work in agriculture and more than 75 per cent live on it in villages. After the liberalization the primary sector has been diminishing and it impact the people has transform to formal sectors. The present study has focused on agrarian crisis and former suicide its impact to increases of migration in India

##### Key words:

Agrarian Crisis,  
Structural Changes, Farmer Suicide,  
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## INTRODUCTION

Agriculture has always been the backbone of the Indian economy and despite concerted industrialisation in the seven decades; agriculture still occupies a place of pride. About 67 per cent of the work-force work in agriculture and more than 75 per cent live on it in villages. Those who live outside villages belong to agriculture in more than one way, through trade in agriculture products, though work in agro based industries etc. but for past few years agriculture employment and work force has descended because agriculture sector faced dreadful circumstance. In mid 1990s and 2000 agriculture has not performed well causing failure of rainfall and climate changes. In India, annual growth of agriculture in GDP was 0.91 per cent in 2012-13 and before past few years' agriculture GDP growth gone negative and near zero per cent. specifically in the year 1991-92 annual growth of agriculture GDP was -2.31 per cent it followed by -0.98 per cent in 1995-96, -0.61 per cent in 2000-01, 0.07 per cent in 2004-05, -0.27 per cent in 2008-09 and 0.41 per cent 2009-10 respectively. The primary sector has been diminishing and it impact the people has transform to formal sectors. The present study has focused on agrarian crisis and former suicide its impact to increases of migration in India.

### Objective of the present study

To study the growth and performance of agriculture in India  
To identify the pattern of worker in agriculture sector in India

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To analyse the agrarian crisis and farmer suicide it impact of migration in India

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

The present study is based on secondary sources of data. The data was collected from Census of India from various census reports, RBI, Ministry of Commerce and affairs, Rajaya Sabha and Lok Sabha Unstarred Question for farmer suicide. The study has been done using simple statistics such as Univariate and Bivariate tables for analysis. The reliable migration data was collected from census report, D – Series tables from 1991 and 2001 Census of India.

### Growth and Performance of Agriculture in India

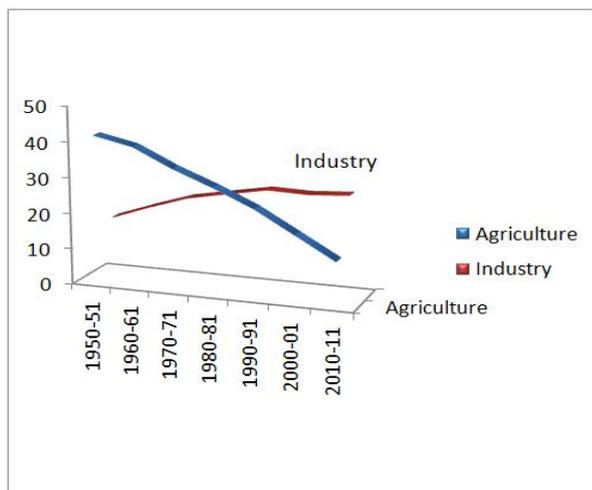
For past few years, the Indian economy is undergoing structural changes from farm sector to modern industrial sector. So the agriculture production has been declined due to bad monsoon and poor harvest. In general notion drought is come at least once in five year in entire India because the agriculture production has ups and down over the period. Table 1 indicates growth rate of agriculture production of food grains over the period from 1990-91 to 2009-10. During this period agriculture production has deeply diminish for deficiency of rainfall. In the year, 2002-03 production of food grains was negative rate of growth of 17.88 per cent this is lowest growth rate among over the period of time. The tenth plan has fixed a target rate of growth of 4 per cent in agriculture to achieve 8 per cent rate of growth in GDP and then next financial year the production of food grains has increased 21.97 per cent. Again the production of food grains

**Table 1. Growth rate of Agriculture production of Food Grains 1990-91 to 2009-10**

Year	Growth Rate of Agriculture Production of Food Grains	Year	Growth Rate of Agriculture Production of Food Grains
1990-91	-	2000-01	-6.19
1991-92	-4.54	2001-02	8.14
1992-93	6.59	2002-03	-17.88
1993-94	2.66	2003-04	21.97
1994-95	3.92	2004-05	-6.95
1995-96	-5.78	2005-06	5.15
1996-97	10.53	2006-07	4.16
1997-98	-3.16	2007-08	6.21
1998-99	5.43	2008-09	1.59
1999-00	3.04	2009-10	-6.97

Sources: RBI, Ministry of Consumer affairs, Food & Public Distribution, Govt. of India

Note: The Growth Rate was self Calculated given the base year 1990-91

**Figure 1. Patterns of Informal and Formal Sector in India**

initial fund allocation of 50,000 crore, it was helpful to recovered from negative growth after quinquennial. The agrarian crisis not only affected by epidemic reasons it also deeply diminished by high growth of modern sector in India. The Fig. 1. shows that agriculture sector and industrial sector has inverse relation to shared GDP into total GDP. In particularly the agriculture growth share to total GDP was decreasing over the period. In the year 1950-51, share of agriculture (not included allied & Services activity) to total GDP at constant 2004-05 price was 41.83 per cent. It was continuing declined at 39.41 per cent in 1960-61 followed by 29.82 per cent and 12.42 per cent in 1980-81 and 2010-11 respectively. While industrial or modern sector contribute to total GDP was 16.19 per cent in 1950-51. It has increased to 25.66 per cent and 27.92 per cent in 1980-81 and 2010-11 respectively. So the modern sector has not increased much more because this sector has contributed only 11.73 per cent to total GDP since from 1950-51 to 2010-11 periods.

But agriculture or informal sector has fallen deeply at 29.41 per cent over the period of time. In this analysis both sector has suffered in the sense of direct and indirect over the period but agriculture decreases has only highlighted and visibly among the people. Indeed, some of them have certain expectation and change its own temper to transform from informal sector to formal or modern sector. While remaining the people has more adopted in agriculture so there won't move anywhere. Hence, they are faced agriculture crisis and come around more debt as a result they commit attempted suicide. Above the Table 2 shows farmer suicide in India – selected state wise for past ten years. The suicide data has only received by few state, remaining the state given the report Nil. The study has analysed on available data for farmer's extremely tragedy. In beginning and mid 2000 has unfavorable condition for agriculture sectors and farmers.

**Table 2. State wise Farmer Suicide in India 2000-01 to 2010-11**

Selected State Wise Farmer Suicide in India (in Numbers) 2000-01 to 2010-11								
Year	Andhra Pradesh	Punjab	Karnataka	Maharashtra	Kerala	Odisha	Gujarat	Tamil Nadu
2000-01	191	Nil	2630	50	841	Nil	13	Nil
2001-02	267	Nil	2505	122	50	2	6	Nil
2002-03	313	Nil	2340	173	101	1	3	Nil
2003-04	393	13	708	632	119	Nil	108	Nil
2004-05	1126	11	271	595	112	Nil	125	Nil
2005-06	657	32	163	1028	68	5	4	Nil
2006-07	530	19	176	590	11	Nil	4	Nil
2007-08	507	24	182	735	Nil	Nil	1	1
2008-09	469	12	156	585	Nil	Nil	0	1
2009-10	303	15	145	548	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
2010-11	222	4	116	485	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

Sources: Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question and Lok Sabha Unstarred Question during the date from 12.05.2006 to 07.09.2012

Note: Following the state Suicide has reported "Nil" namely Himachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Goa, Haryana, Jammu & Kashmir, Mizoram, Chhattisgarh, Sikkim, Assam, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, and Rajasthan and all Uts.

has negative rate of growth of 6.97 per cent in 2004-05. It was followed by -6.97 per cent and -6.19 per cent in 2009-10 and 2000-01 respectively. Among over the period, 2002-03 the great deficiency of monsoon rain has major reasons for declined agriculture production in India. At the same time agriculture production has some positive growth after faced major agrarian crisis in the year 2004-05 as reasons the government of India announced a major agriculture programme named as the Second Green Revolution with an

As per the data, in the year 2000-01 the 3725 number of farmer has commit suicide in India followed by 2952, 2931 and 2240 in the year 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2004-05 respectively. The fact that was becoming the reasons for suicide had agrarian crisis its impact of indebtedness. Most of the study point out agrarian crisis and its impact of more debt and unable to repay the loan that are pushing the farmer into distress and ultimately leading to suicide. Among the India, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, and Maharashtra the majority of

farmer had commit suicide for agrarian reasons. Geographically this states has more suffer by irrigation facility here most of the farmer depends on bore well water sources for agriculture. During rainfall seasons only has helpful to cultivation remaining the period mostly depended on bore well. In recent Incident on June 6<sup>th</sup> 2014 Beeraiah, 28 years old a farmer in Telangana's Medak district hanging himself from a tree near his house for poorest monsoon and in Tamil Nadu on 26 January 2013, 48 years old Jeganathan had hanging himself in his house for debt force in Tirunelveli district. He had cultivated pulses and corn in 16 acres of his land and he obtained loan from bank Rs. 77,000 and from lenders 4 Lakhs for the purpose but with the monsoon failure, his crop began to wither and he was unable to repay the loan (Times of India). Mostly the agrarian crisis and incident of suicide by poor monsoon and bad irrigation facility, as a government can improve irrigation facility but can't take steps getting rainfall. Hence, the people has transformed to non agriculture sector.

**Table 3. Population and Agricultural Workers in India**

Year	Rural Population (millions)	Cultivators	Agricultural labourers	Non-Agriculture Workers	Total
1951	298.6 (82.7)	69.9 (49.9)	27.3 (19.5)	42.8 (30.6)	140.0 (100.0)
1961	360.3 (82.0)	99.6 (52.8)	31.5 (16.7)	57.6 (30.5)	188.7 (100.0)
1971	439.1 (80.1)	78.3 (43.4)	47.5 (26.3)	54.7 (30.3)	180.5 (100.0)
1981	525.5 (76.7)	92.5 (37.8)	55.5 (22.7)	96.6 (39.5)	244.6 (100.0)
1991	628.0 (74.2)	110.6 (38.75)	74.6 (26.1)	100.2 (35.1)	285.4 (100.0)
2001	743.0 (72.2)	103.0 (27.76)	63.4 (15.76)	235.2 (58.48)	402.2 (100.0)
2011	833.0 (68.84)	95.8 (19.88)	86.1 (17.87)	299.8 (62.2)	481.8 (100.0)

(Source: Registrar General's Office for the data of 1951 to 2011)

Note : Figures in brackets give percentage to total

The Table – 3 reveals rural population, cultivators, agricultural labourers and non agriculture workers from 1951 to 2011 as shown table.

### Rural Population

The growth rate of rural population has been increased from 298.6 million (82.7 per cent) in 1950-51 to 628.0 million (74.2 per cent) and further increased 833.0 million (68.84 per cent) in 2010-11. But, the entire study period the growth of rural population has increased and same time the percentage of rural population has been declined. This evidently proves that the urbanization taking place much faster in decade by decades. As a result, the rural agriculture people have transformed to non agriculture based works its impact to declined cultivators and agriculture workers in India over the period.

### Cultivators and Agricultural workers

In India, the work force was 140.0 million in 1950-51, Cultivators 69.9 million (49.9 per cent); agricultural workers 27.3 (19.5 per cent) and non agriculture workers 42.8 million (30.6 per cent) followed by 285.4 million in 1990-91, cultivators 110.6 million (38.75 per cent); agricultural workers 74.6 million (26.1 per cent) and non agriculture workers 100.2

million (35.1 per cent); 402.2 million in 2000-01, cultivators 103.0 million (27.76 per cent); agricultural workers 63.4 million (15.76 per cent) and other workers 235.2 million (58.48 per cent) and 481.8 million in 2010-11, cultivators 95.8 (19.88 per cent); agricultural workers 86.1 per cent (17.87 per cent) and non agriculture workers 299.8 million (62.2 per cent). The foregoing above analysis reveals the cultivators declined from 38.75 per cent to 19.88 per cent and agricultural workers also declined from 26.1 per cent to 17.87 per cent in 1990-91 and 2010-11. This two category of the workers declined almost of the percentage of the workers. Whereas, the non agriculture worker have been increased from 35.1 percent to 65.2 per cent over the period. This further reveals the (after the new economic reforms) non-farm employment and dependants has been increased for the period. As a result, the rural population likes farmers, agricultural labour to migrate urban areas for their suitable and sustainable source income for survival.

**Table 4. Migrants Classified by place of last Residence**

	Total Migrants			Internal Migrants		
	Persons	Male	Female	Persons	Male	Female
1991						
Total	27.70	14.79	41.65	26.95	14.05	40.88
Rural	26.08	10.21	42.99	29.69	13.89	46.50
Urban	32.17	27.66	37.43	18.50	14.05	23.38
2001						
Total	30.58	17.54	44.55	30.08	17.04	44.05
Rural	28.33	11.49	46.14	27.98	11.14	45.79
Urban	36.41	32.89	40.31	35.51	31.98	39.44

Sources: Census Report 1991 and 2001, Migration Table D series, Census of India.

As per 1991 census, total migrants in India was 27.70 per cent to total population it has to increased to 30.58 per cent in 2001 census. During both decades female migrants has higher than male it was 41.65 per cent to total population in 1991 and 44.55 per cent in 2001 census in India. The Table 4 clearly shows that urban migrants has high in 1991 was 32.17 per cent compare to total and rural migrants it has increased to 36.41 per cent in 2001 and also urban male migration was 27.66 per cent in 1991 it has increased to 32.89 per cent. So aggregate migration clearly shows during both census period urban migrants and urban male migration has been increased from 1991 to 2001. The Table 4 also showed internal migration in India as the same period. The massive rate of urban migration has increased from 1991 to 2001 it was 18.50 per cent and increased to 35.51 per cent over the period. Again in internal migration, urban male and female migration rose from 1991 to 2001 while the rural female migration has to decline over the period.

**Table 5. Reasons for Migration in India**

Reasons	Percentage to Total Migrants 1991			Percentage to Total Migrants 2001		
	Persons	Male	Female	Persons	Male	Female
Total Migrants	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.0	100.00
Internal Migration	97.29	95.02	98.15	98.35	97.11	98.91
Work/ Employment	8.81	26.28	1.76	9.60	28.48	1.65
Business	2.30	6.69	0.49	0.87	2.54	0.18
Education	1.95	4.91	0.79	1.07	2.54	0.41
Marriage	57.26	4.09	76.99	50.27	2.32	70.10
Family Moved	14.92	26.35	10.63	13.22	19.76	10.91
Others	14.17	28.31	8.93	19.92	34.88	13.67

Sources: Census Report 1991 and 2001, Migration Table D series, Census of India

The Table 5 provides details of reason for migration in case of migrants by last residence. Specifically the table shows percentage of migration has been increased during 2001 census compare to 1991 except from the reasons of family moved. During both 1991 and 2001, the reasons for marriage migration has high particularly female has mostly migrated for those reasons but this rate has declined over the period. In generally after 60s the people has migrated for employment purpose so in this table also has indicated male has migrated for employment was 26.28 per cent in 1991 it has increased to 28.48 per cent in 2001 and the reasons for other purpose of migration it might be for natural disaster and away home by quarrel so these reason has increased in 2001 compare to 1991.

### **Findings and Conclusion**

Agrarian crisis is a major impact of social changes across in India. The growth of agriculture has more fluctuation during from 1990-91 to 2009-10 periods. Among this period, agrarian farmer has faced major crisis in the year 1991-92 for the reasons of balance of payment problem which emerged in 1990-91, had reached crisis proportions by June 1991. So in this response was shortage of foreign exchange, disrupted of industrial production and shortage of food grains. It was followed by India faced some crisis during the period of 1995-96, 1997-98, 2000-01, 2002-03, 2004-05, and 2009-10 period. The average annual growth of GDP in agriculture was -2.07 per cent over the period. So agriculture workers have transformation to non agriculture activity, has left of more adopted agriculture people has suffered and faced agrarian crisis as result they had attempt suicide. During 2000-01, 3725 number of farmer has attempt suicide by reasons of poor harvest, bad monsoon, and indebtedness it followed by number of suicide in this year 2001-02, 2002-03, and 2004-05 was reported. Hence, agriculture workers has jumped to non agriculture activity for consistent income it impact to increased urban migration in India.

During 2001 census period, the urban migration has increased and also the rapid increase of male into urban for employment and other reasons. At the same time the female inflow into rural area has decreased between the periods for agrarian collapsed. The percentage of overall migration has increased from 1991 to 2001 for diminishing primary sector. So agrarian sector necessitate improving equal to modern sector it helpful to reduce regional imbalance and also will generated agriculture employment among the people so, it will contain the flow of migration into urban.

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