

**“PROBLEMS OF FARMER’S INDEBTEDNESS IN
SANGLI DISTRICT WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE
TO WALWA AND SHIRALA TALUKA”**

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SUMMERY OF MINOR RESEARCH PROJECT

Introduction: Indian economy is treated as agro based economy; agricultural sector is the backbone of the economy. Agricultural sector plays vital role in the economy because all sectors development is related to agricultural growth. More than 60% population is involved in agricultural business, major employment is generated through this sector, unskilled labour force in rural India is mostly depend on this business. Share of agricultural production in the gross domestic product in India has reduced from 56% in 1950-51 In the year 2011-12 it was declined up to 13.7 % .Agricultural growth reduced from 4.69 % in 1991 to 2.6 % in 1997-98 and 1.1 % in 2002-03.In the 12th plan annual growth rate of agricultural development is estimated 4%. It is going 2.4 % in this current year.

Up to grass root level the structure of financial facilities was made by government. This structure was based on the recommendation suggested by All India Rural Credit Survey Committee. State Cooperative bank is working as an apex bank while district central cooperative bank working on district level. Primary credit cooperative society works for village level. Mid and short term loan requirements are fulfilled by these credit system. Long term needs of finance are completed through land development banks. Beside this the nationalized banking chain also provides finance on priority basis, after 1975 Regional Rural Banks were doing on their best. The whole credit system for agricultural and rural system came under control of NABARD from 1982.Then after NABARD is managing the agricultural credit system.

Very unfortunately this organized credit system unable to cover overall farmers of country. At village level number of farmers taking finances from privet moneylenders at higher rate of interest. This credit system affecting socio-economic factors, different type of social problems is created by this privet lending system. On the other hand the cost of production in agro business is increased by higher rate. After economic reforms in India agricultural sector is came under number of difficulties. The common farmer of country is marginally beneficiated. To maintain the standard of living through only agricultural income is becoming highly impossible for farmers.

SIGNIFICANCE AND SCOPE OF THE STUDY:

Indian agricultural sector is going under very critical situation. Agricultural crisis is running since last some years. In the era of globalization agricultural business and activities are becoming unproductive and unfavorable to the rural peoples. Loss in this sector is going on year by year. Farmers are totally collapsed by increasing production cost, input cost increasing, and scarcity of labourers is becoming difficult to farmers. Prices of agricultural products are not predictable, farmer is not price maker, and number of obstacles is disturbing to farmers in the market. Farmer is exploited by traders, middleman, brokers, bankers and money lenders. Government has not enough constant agricultural policy. Since 1995-96 to 2004-05 138321 farmers suicides while 2004-05 to 2013 146373 farmers' suicides in India. Most of them came under suicides due to heavy burden of debt taken by private and other agencies. There is positive correlation between indebtedness and suicides. Farmer is not demanding any facility in free manner; he just needs proper funds at proper time, he expects proper prices for his product and consistency in agricultural market. Unfortunately these things are not happening in India. Rural part of India and farmers are living with heavy burden of debts and its traps. This business is becoming unfavorable to farmers. Most of farmers are in the position to leave this business if they got sustainable income source. Problem of farmer's indebtedness is one of the burning issues in the nation. Farmers in developed area are also faced the indebtedness. On this background it is necessary to examine the situation and status of nearby farmers.

Sangli district is one of the important and leading districts in Maharashtra state. It belongs to nine taluqs out of them five are remains in drought prone position. Walwa taluka situated in between Krishna and Warna riverbank, while Shirala situated at western end of district where we find heavy raining, also it is hilly area. Vasantsagar dam on Warana River and Koyana dam on Koyana River are supplying sufficient water for agriculture in these two taluqs since last 30 years. By this water facility cropping

pattern is changed in this area. Sugarcane is major cash crop and we find that Walwa taluka is one of leading sugarcane production taluka in western Maharashtra. Seven cooperative sugarcane factories are working in Walwa and Shirala taluka. Beside this milk and soya bean procurement projects are also working. Other agro base business is running in good professional position. Satisfactory food grain and cash crop production helps to increase standard of living of farmers. The socio economic face of this area is changed in positive manner in last some year. But even this situation ratio of landings of all type farmers is increased rapidly in last 10 to 15 years on this basis we are trying to observe this indebtedness in these two taluks.

HYPOTHESIS: – “Farmers are occurring in indebtedness in study area”.

OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY:

1. To study the change in agricultural production and cropping pattern in Walwa and shirala taluka.
2. To study the general standard of living of farmers.
3. To study financial sources for farmers for their agricultural purpose.
4. To study the change in financial ratio.
5. To find out the causes of indebtedness.

Methodology and Data Collection

This study is based on primary and secondary data. We select farmers for study from different financial status. It represents marginal, small, midlevel, and rich farmers. Farmers select for study from randomly selected villages. Data and other information collected through interviews, questionnaires, experts view in this area. For processing the data statistical tools are applied.

Secondary data collected from various reference books, journals, periodicals, government's publications, annual publications of cooperative institutions, information from Pancayat samitees and Zilla Parishad, district and state census reports and statistical abstracts, Government publications, RBI bulletins. The data was also collected from different co-operative societies, offices of the district and taluka level.

The present study is based on both primary and secondary data. There are 10 Talukas in Sangli District and Only 2 Talukas are selected for study. In each taluka 10 villages are selected for study. In each village, 12 farmers are selected for our study, by using random sample method. These 12 farmers are equally distributed from five groups of farmer's e. g. Marginal farmers, small farmers, semi-medium, medium and large farmers, it means total 240 farmers will be selected as a sample.

USE OF THE STATISTICAL TECHNIQUES: – The Present study depends on primary and secondary sources of the data. Some appropriate statistical techniques such as Percentage change, Graphs, Simple and compound Growth Rates, Averages, Co-relation etc were used for relevant statistical inferences required for the study.

CHAPTER SCHEME:

I) Introduction and Methodology: This chapter has introductory information regarding to the study of research area. It has information of Indian agricultural system, various concepts related to agricultural business. Change in the nature of of agriculture in India is studied, Agricultural production, productivity, its related factors, causes of low productivity etc are taken in account in the study. Review of agricultural status of Maharashtra is also studied in this topic. Financial structure of agricultural sector and its status is observed in this chapter. Data collection, statistical tools for analysis, significance of study, objectives and hypothesis is included in this chapter.

II) Review of Literature: In this chapter various literatures published previously regarding to this subject is studied. Different books, journals and periodicals, articles are referred. Information from internet is studied in this period. The latest studies on agrarian distress have revealed the farmers' suicides, so it was a challenging subject for the research study. There is lot of discussion and thinking is going on this issue among economist, policy makers, agriculturist, and academicians etc. some research studies carried out on this study area. For the sake of conceptual building, the researcher has studied and taken the review of literature through some books, Ph.D. thesis, research articles and research project reports etc.

III) Profile of Sangli District, Walwa and Shirala Taluka: In this chapter review taken about Sangli district including Walwa and Shirala taluka. This chapter includes the various aspects of study area i.g. location, geographical and topographical position, demographic features, communication and other infrastructural status. It includes agricultural information, cropping pattern, major crops and its productivity, marketing system financial system, technological and other contents of farming in study area.

IV) Farmers indebtedness in study area – Analysis of problem: This is an important chapter in this research work. The study is focused on this chapter and findings find out through analysis of collected data. All issues related to farming business are verified and analyzed. Nature of land holdings, size of farmer family, their economical and educational status, work force in agriculture, cropping pattern, production and productivity of main crops, cost of production of crops, gross and net income from these crops, income sources of farmers, sources of loans, views of farmers toward lending system, obstacles faced by them, loan status in both talukas, expenditure pattern of family comparative analysis of factors especially loans etc. are studied in this chapter.

V) Conclusions and Recommendations: This chapter includes findings and conclusions based on chapter No IV. Data analyzed and more than thirty conclusions are concluded. Recommendations are suggested relating to findings. Hypothesis is tested and it is proved. It maintained in this chapter.

This research work completed with nice pleasure of research. As per objectives study took place and these objectives are proved at study level. Hypothesis is proved with collected data. It is very painful finding that common farmer of this area is living with different obstacles in his business as well as his living standard. It is big responsibility of all parts of society is that to take care of rural peoples and farmers. If farmer become happy ultimately whole society can become happy, it is positive correlation. I hope that this study will useful to society, government, political parties, social groups, organizations for the future plans of economical and social development.
