

**Report of Baseline Survey conducted for the  
families in which farmers committed  
suicides since 1999 in Andhra Pradesh**

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# **Report of Baseline Survey conducted for the families in which farmers committed suicides since 1999 in AP**

## **1. Introduction**

The Government have looked into the tragic incidents of suicides in the past decade by the farmers in various parts of the State. Having understood the severity of the cases reported, the Government of Andhra Pradesh has enacted G.O.Ms.No. 421 way back in the year 2004 itself. The G.O mentioned clearly that the reasons for those suicides could be attributed to the natural calamities like successive droughts and pest attacks, mounting of debts year after year consequent social humiliation faced by the family, financial extortion and psychological trauma resulting in social disconnect. These reasons are observed to be valid even after 8 years. Under the G.O, various relief measures have been stipulated for providing to the bereaved families. They include

- A) Financial Assistance with
  - an ex-gratia of Rs. 1.00 lakh (Rupees one lakh only) in cases of suicide provisionally arises out of farm income related issues shall be provided to the family/next of kin of the deceased farmer, as an economic support,
  - Loan settlement up to a ceiling of Rs.50, 000/- (Rupees fifty thousand only) as one time settlement, to creditors
- B) Other entitlements
  - Admission of children in Social Welfare schools and Hostels
  - Allotment of houses under I.A.Y Scheme
  - Economic support under Government schemes
  - Pensions etc.

Since 2004, the entire Government machinery under the stewardship of District Collector worked meticulously on verification of the cases, providing appropriate rehabilitation measures to the families of the victims. A total of 5241 cases have been identified across the state from the year 1998 upto May 2012 as per the data provided by the Revenue Department and Rs.77.07 crore have been provided as financial assistance by the Government to the identified families.

Revenue Department which is closely monitoring the progress, felt a need for having rapid assessment on the rehabilitation measures provided to the families of farmers committed suicides alongwith their socio-economic profiles. Upon the request of the

Revenue Department, SERP has conducted a detailed door-to door survey of all the families as identified by the Department with the support of IKP staff. This report highlights the socio-economic aspects of the families in which farmers committed suicides and the assistance provided to them basing on the survey conducted by IKP team. In addition, it tried to capture their eligibility to entitlements under various government schemes alongwith their preferences towards taking up livelihood enhancement activities. At the end, it also throws light on the action points to be taken up by various departments based on the gaps identified from the survey.

## **2. Questionnaire & Survey Methodology**

Carrying out a household survey to cover the 5241 families which are spread all across the state falling in 750 mandals (nearly 3/4<sup>th</sup> of the total mandals) from all the 22 districts within the given short period of time (2 weeks) is not an easy task. SERP having established its wide network of CBOs and the supporting staff in AP, took up this herculean survey.

Earlier, SERP had devised a detailed questionnaire comprising 92 columns for capturing the baseline information of the poorest of the poor families under its Unnathi Programme. It covers the various dimensions of a household viz family members' information, quality of life, ownership of assets, various sources of credit, vulnerabilities within family alongwith various government schemes or entitlements the family has accessed earlier. Already baseline information of 6.2 lakh PoP families of Unnathi Phase I, was collected using the format last year and being used for covering another 7.2 lakh PoP families of Unnathi Phase II this year. As this survey format was found to be appropriate for collecting the socio-economic information of the families of the farmers committed suicides, it was decided to use the same.

Along with the baseline survey, a detailed questionnaire was also used to capture the nature of assistance provided under the G.O. 421 and requirement of additional livelihood assistance if any sought by the bereaved family. Both the baseline survey format and additional survey in Telugu are attached. An exclusive web based online application was already developed to capture the 92 column baseline information and it was modified for feeding the additional information pertaining to farmers' suicide survey. As the questionnaire was a tested tool, no piloting was required for testing it again.

As the mandate was to cover all the families of farmers committed suicides as identified by the Revenue Department, no sampling could be used and the entire population was taken up as much as possible. Services of IKP team (Cluster Coordinators, APMs at Mandal level and Unnathi Coordinators at District level) alongwith PoP Community Activists or VO Assistants were utilized to carry out the survey in the stipulated time. Though it was tried to ensure that only staff trained on the process of collecting baseline information to be deputed, but unfortunately Unnathi programme did not have those many staff to do the survey. With a daylong orientation over objectives of the survey and filing up of the related questionnaires, they started the activity. Despite their regular tight schedules, the activity was taken up on war-footing basis and completed within the stipulated time.

### **Limitations of the Report:**

- The survey was not completed for some families as they were not available during the time of survey due to either temporary migration or permanent.
- Notwithstanding the efforts put by the IKP staff, the survey and the subsequent data collected depends mainly upon the respondent and their response to a major extent.
- There is also a possibility for some of their responses to be biased as it is dealing with one of the most sensitive issues ie., loss of life.
- In addition, the expectations of the families from the government might have played a role in uttering their responses to certain questions.
- It is also possible to have some typo-errors during the data-entry phase in the online software as it got to be completed in a limited time.

## **3. Basic Observations**

Though 5241 cases were listed out by the Revenue Department, additional 151 names were obtained from the District Collectorates taking the total to 5392. In addition to them, there were 149 cases pending with District administration and 59 cases got rejected based on the genuinity.

Out of the total 5392 identified cases, baseline was conducted for 4955 families and of which suicide particulars were obtained for 4605 families. Among the rest, 361 families migrated to some other places and another 76 could not be traced out at all. On verifying

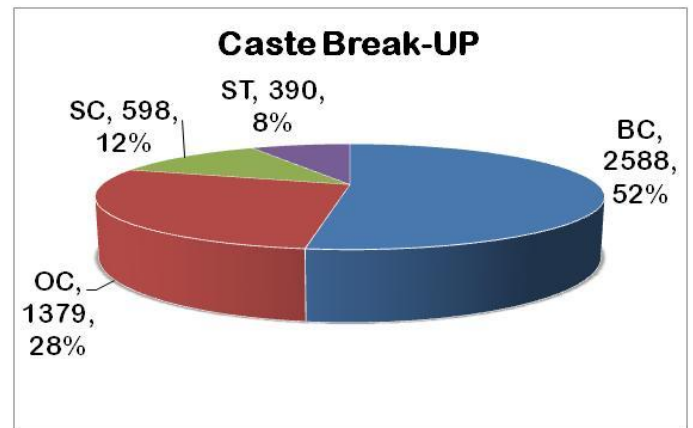
the reasons for migration, some of them due to distress and went for livelihood opportunities (293 cases), some got remarried and went to other villages (68 cases).

### **Geographical Distribution**

When we looked at the severity of these cases across the State, 40% of them happened in the three districts namely Anantapur, Warangal and Karimnagar each of which is having more than 600 farmers committing suicide since 1998. Furthermore, the impact is moderate in the five districts of Kurnool (474), Adilabad (410), Mahaboobnagar(373), Medak (370) and Nalgonda(315) which comprise another 38% of the overall cases.

### **Social Category-wise Distribution**

The caste wise break-up of the families surveyed is given below. Half of them are belonging to the backward community with 20% from SCs & STs. This shows that the suicide is spread uniformly across the communities which is in line with their population proportion.



### **Gender and Age-wise Distribution**

Majority of the farmers committed suicide are men while 133 members are women. At the same time, when the age group is observed, majority of them fall under the age group of 30-49 years (60% cases) with another 23% falling in the age group of 50-59 years. This is illustrated in the table below.

Age-Group	Suicide Cases reported
19-29 years	255
30-39 years	979
40-49 years	1739
50-59 years	1196
>59 years	436
<b>Total</b>	<b>4605</b>

### **Year-wise Distribution**

On analyzing the year of death reported, it is observed that majority of the cases happened during the year 2004 and since then there seems to be a gradual reduction in the number of farmers committing suicide. Details are given below.

<b>Year of Death</b>	<b>Death Cases reported</b>
Till 2000	365
2001	212
2002	248
2003	231
2004	945
2005	547
2006	466
2007	447
2008	345
2009	285
2010	209
2011	193
2012 (till Apr)	112
<b>Total</b>	<b>4605</b>

### **Relationship of farmer committed suicide with Head of the household**

The incidence of the breadwinners of the families committing suicide is as high as 85% of the overall deaths reported.

<b>Relationship of the farmer committed suicide with present Head of the household</b>	<b>Death Cases reported</b>
Husband	3927
Father	264
Son	210
Others	204
<b>Total</b>	<b>4605</b>

## 4. Financial Assistance

From the baseline survey carried out, it is noticed that 383 cases out of 4605 did not receive any ex-gratia amount for taking any livelihood activity and another 553 families conveyed that they did not receive the one time loan settlement assistance. Though it is spread across the state, majority of the cases not provided compensation are observed in Karimnagar (73), Warangal (64) and Anantapur (43) districts.

### Ex-Gratia

Ex-Gratia Amount received (in Rs.)	Total families received
0	383
100000	3769
below 50000	114
between 50000-70000	262
between 70000-100000	77
<b>Total</b>	<b>4605</b>

It is observed strikingly that majority of the families (almost 52%) used the ex-gratia amount for repaying the loans / debts they were having then. This amount was used up over and above the one time loan settlement assistance provided by the government. Only 19% used for agricultural purposes with another 11% used it for taking other income generating activities including livestock. The details are given below.

Purpose for which Ex-gratia utilized	No. of families reported	%
To repay outside loans	2208	52%
Agriculture	789	19%
IGA	447	11%
Domestic needs	383	9%
Marriages /function	193	5%
Health	72	2%
Education	66	2%
House construction	64	2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>4222</b>	<b>100%</b>



### **One time loan settlement assistance**

<b>Loan Settlement amount received in Rs.</b>	<b>Total families reported</b>
0	553
50000	3669
Less than or equal to 10000	75
between 10000-30000	117
between 30000-50000	191
<b>Total</b>	<b>4605</b>

Similarly, we look at to whom the one time loan settlement assistance was provided, it was observed that majority of the resettlement was given to money lenders (40%) with another 30% of assistance was released to relatives. Banks were reported a meager 15%.

<b>Loan Settlement provided to whom</b>	<b>No. of families reported</b>	<b>%</b>
Money lender	1786	44%
Relative	1206	30%
Bank	625	15%
Other	445	11%
<b>Total</b>	<b>4062</b>	<b>100%</b>

### **Livelihood assistance from Other Government Schemes**

In addition to the financial assistance, it is observed that 464 families benefitted from assistance from other departments. Details are mentioned below.

<b>Department</b>	<b>No. of families benefitted</b>
BC corporation	73
Minority welfare	13
Other Departments	171
SC corporation	28
TRICOR	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>295</b>

## 5. Access to Entitlements

Though it is recommended by the Government to ensure all the necessary entitlements to the families where the farmers committed suicides, the following gaps are observed from the baseline survey.

### Ration Card / Arogyasri Card

Out of 4955 families surveyed, still 577 families are yet to be provided with Ration Cards which is considered to be a vital entitlement for any family living in the State.

Having Arogyasri cards for BPL families is necessary to take care of the health assistance. However, it is to be noted that 827 families of those who are below poverty line do not possess Arogyasri card yet. Details are mentioned below.

Type of Ration card	Total families having	Families having Arogyasri card	Not Having Argoysri card
No ration card	577	0	577
BPL cards (White)	3646	2973	673
Annapurna Antyodaya (AAP/ YAP)	665	529	136
APL card (PAP)	15	15	0
Rachabanda (TAP / RAP)	52	34	18
<b>Total</b>	<b>4955</b>	<b>3551</b>	<b>1404</b>

### Job Card

The situation is still bleak in the case of issuance of Job cards, a mandatory requirement for accessing the wage employment under MGNREGS with 60% of the families not having job cards. Unwillingness to seek work under MGNREGS can be cited as a reason for not having job cards but that itself will not suffice the argument.

	Total families having	Total families not having
Job Card	1976	2979
<b>Total</b>		<b>4955</b>

### Pensions / Insurance

Out of the 4955 families, details of members provided various types of pensions are mentioned in the table.

Type of Pension	Total Pensioners	Eligible but not yet provided
Old aged	329	760
Widow	3184	743
Disability	90	198
Abhayastham	91	
Others	102	
<b>Total</b>	<b>3962</b>	<b>1186</b>

As far as insurance is concerned, it is observed that 1885 members are insured under various schemes.

Type of Insurance	Total members insured
Abhayastham	849
AABY	281
JBY	7
Others	701
<b>Total</b>	<b>1838</b>

### **Disability affected families**

288 persons with disability are reported among the surveyed families.

Type of Disability	No. of members
Orthopedic	156
Hearing impaired	44
Blind	30
Mental illness	64
Dwarfs/lepers	10

Out of 288, 253 are stated to be not having SADAREM certification and 237 are not having bus-pass. 34 of them have some sort of aids and apparatus.

### **Chronic Diseases**

There are 216 members from the families surveyed reported of having some or other chronic diseases pushing them towards vulnerability. Details are as below

Type of Disease	No. of members
Cancer	18
Paralysis	18
HIV affected	4
Heart Problem	11
Nervous Disorder	24
TB	11
Asthma	11
Arthritis	34
Anaemia	5
Other Chronic diseases	89

### **Housing**

It is observed from the data that 453 families out of 4955 are not having houses of their own and residing in rental houses. Whereas, 542 families are still dwelling in huts or kutchra houses even after the phases of Indiramma housing schemes are implemented in a saturation mode.

Type of House	Total families
Total Rental houses	454
Hut	542
Tiled house	2266
RCC	1937
Two storied buildings	7

### **Status of IAY / Indiramma Housing**

Households for which IAY sanctioned	211
Households for which Indiramma housing sanctioned	1239
<b>Total Households Sanctioned housing</b>	<b>1450</b>
Total houses completed	1080
Under construction	187
Construction stopped	102
<b>Total households eligible but not sanctioned any housing</b>	<b>2516</b>
Total Households not eligible	787

## 6. Quality of Life

### Sanitation

Only one third of the families surveyed are having their own individual sanitary latrines with rest of families compelled to go for open defecation. This percentage takes further dip when we calculate it for the tribal areas wherein hardly 13% are having toilets in their houses.

### Electricity

As per the data collected, still 334 families do not have any electricity provision and depend on other sources for their lighting. This is severe in the districts of Warangal and Mahaboobnagar.

### Cooking fuel

Still majority i.e. 80% of the families use wood as the primary source for cooking whereas the penetration of LPG or bio-gas is around 20%.

### Other Assets

1759 families possess either mobile phone or landline connections whereas only 18 families reported that they have a computer at home.

Household Accessories	Total families possessing
Phone	1759
TV	1364
Mixer	181
Fridge	33
Computer	16

### Education

In the total families surveyed, it is observed that there are 3425 children available in the age group of 3 to 17. Of them 49% are girls with 51% boys. Details mentioned in the table below.

Age group	Total Children
3 to 5	134
6 to 10	947
11 to 14	1362
15 to 17	982
<b>Total</b>	<b>3425</b>

Of the children studying beyond primary school, scholarships under different schemes were received by 1152 children whereas 2011 stated that they did not any receive such scholarships. However, though the G.O has stated clearly that children from these families should be admitted in the residential schools or welfare hostels, only 260 children are availing the facility during the time of survey. Of the total 3291 children of school going age (6-17), there are 210 children out of school due to various reasons. Of the children going to school, 70% of them are studying in government schools with 30% enrolled in private schools.

When the reasons for children out of school are analyzed, majority of them uttered that it is the financial cause that is pulling them away from school. Details mentioned below.

Reasons for children out of school	Total children reported
Financial Reasons	156
Family Issues	21
Due to failing	9
Health Issues	6
Never went to school	3
Others	15
<b>Total</b>	<b>210</b>

### **External Loans:**

As observed from the survey, 2142 families have reported that they have outside loans borrowed from different sources. A same family could source from one or more sources mentioned below. Ironically, inability to repay these loans pushed the farmers earlier to take the ultimate step of ending their lives. This way of usurping has exorbitant rates of interest ranging an average of Rs.2.5 to Rs.10 in certain cases.

Source for credit	No. of families
Money lender	1096
Relatives	675
Other Bank loan	452
Landlords	203
Crop loan	86
Friends	61
MFI	22
Co-op bank	19
Cooperative societies	7
Others	162

When we look at the purpose for which the loans were taken, it is again agriculture related that tops the list with 1284 farmers (more than 50% of the total cases) are having debts pertaining to the same cause. Average loan size is also varying but as expected it is more in the case of marriage & functions and construction of houses. Details are mentioned below.

Purpose of External loan	No. of Families	Average loan size (in Rs.)
Agriculture related	1284	59005
Domestic needs	315	35956
Marriages / functions	289	81828
Health	207	46180
Other Income activities	199	59387
Education	176	52868
To repay other loans	166	42830
House construction	123	75834

## 7. Livelihoods

### Land

Out of the 4605 families for which land details were made available, 3558 have reported that they possess some piece of Land during the time of survey. 25% of the families i.e. 1047 families are landless. Either they must have taken land on lease or must have sold away the land they possessed.

Out of the 3558 families owning land, the social category wise distribution is as follows:

Category	No. of families	Extent (in acres)
BCs	1891	5189.5
OCs	960	3272.5
SCs	411	880.9
STs	296	829.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>3558</b>	<b>10172.6</b>

In total, the families possess 10172.6 acres of land and the average landholding is 2.86 acres.

Type of land owned	No. of families	Extent (in acres)
Dry Land	3002	8669.03
Wet Land	681	1503

### **Livestock**

Livestock owned by the families are given in the table. In the big ruminants category 254 out of 1636 cows and buffaloes i.e. only 15% are insured.

Type of livestock owned	No. of families	No. of animals owned	Animals Insured
Cows	354	598	134
Buffaloes	637	1038	120
Bulls/he-buffaloes	417	833	
Sheep	48	761	
Goats	83	421	

### **Livelihood Activity**

The survey also mentioned about the livelihood options preferred by the family in the event of some additional financial assistance from the external agencies. Out of the 4605 families, 1686 families did not show any interest to get livelihood assistance. Of the remaining families, majority have shown interest in getting livestock. The details are as shown below:



Activity Interested	Total families	%
Agriculture	147	3.2%
Milching animals	1804	39.1%
Small ruminants	438	9.5%
Petty business	349	7.5%
Skilled business	181	3.9%
Not interested	1686	36%
<b>Total</b>	<b>4605</b>	<b>100%</b>

### **SHG Non Farm Livelihood Project (SNLP)**

834 families have shown interest in taking up activities under SHG Non Farm Livelihood Project of SERP. Key interested activities are:

Type of activity under SNLP	No. of members interested
Computer related	212
Commercial dairy	209
Tailoring / Embroidery	100
Car driving / Mechanic	83
Electric repair	32
Agarbathi making	20
Others	199
<b>Total</b>	<b>855</b>

### **Rajiv Yuva Kiranalu (RYK)**

1240 youth have shown interest in taking up jobs from RYK

## 8. Action Points

On the whole, following are action points that emerge from the Survey.

Sl. No.	Action Point	No. of families to be benefited	Responsible Department
	<b>Financial Relief</b>		
1	Payment of Ex-Gratia	383	Revenue
2	Payment of one time loan settlement	553	Revenue
	<b>Entitlements</b>		
3	Provision of Ration Cards	577	Civil Supplies
4	Provision of Arogyasri Cards	1404	Health & Family Welfare (Arogyasri Trust)
5	Provision of Job Cards	2979	Rural Development (Commissioner, RD)
6	Provision of Pensions	1701	Rural Development (SERP)
7	Provision of Insurance cover	5289	Rural Development (SERP)
8	SADAREM certification to the disabled	253	Rural Development (SERP)
9	Bus Pass to the disabled	237	Disabled Welfare
10	Housing	2516	Housing
	<b>Quality of Life</b>		
11	Individual Household Latrines	3209	RWS
12	Electricity connection	334	APTRANSCO
13	Scholarships to students	2011	Education
14	Admission into hostels/ residential schools for willing families	2821	Education
15	Mainstreaming out of school children	210	Education

	<b>Livelihoods</b>		
16	Provision of land to eligible landless poor	1047	District Administration
17	Development of land under MGNREGA for eligible land owning families	3002	Rural Development (Commissioner, RD)
18	Insurance of the cattle/small ruminants	1382 (No. of cattle)	Animal Husbandry
19	Preparation of Household Livelihood Projects (HLPs) and grounding of assets to the SC/ST families	603	Rural Development (SERP)
20	Preparation of HLPs and grounding of assets to the non-SC/ST families	2316	Other Departments
21	Facilitation of Jobs under RYK to interested youth	1240	REMAP
22	Facilitation of self-employment to interested families under SNLP	855	Rural Development (SERP)

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