

CHAPTER – 2

SUICIDES IN INDIA

Incidence and Rate of Suicides during the Decade (1996-2006)

More than one lakh persons (1,18,112) in the country lost their lives by committing suicide during the year 2006. This indicates an increase of 3.7 per cent over the previous year's figure (1,13,914). [Table – 2.1]

The number of suicides in the country during the decade (1996–2006) has recorded an increase of 33.9 per cent (from 88,241 in 1996

to 1,18,112 in 2006). The increase in incidence of suicides was reported each year during the decade except in 2000 and 2001. The population has increased by 20.2 per cent during the decade and the rate of suicides has increased by 10.5 per cent. The rate of suicides has shown a declining trend since 1999 to 2002. A mixed trend was observed during 2003 to 2006. [Table–2.1 and 2(A)]

Table – 2 (A)

Incidence of Suicides, Growth of Population and Rate of Suicides During 2002 to 2006

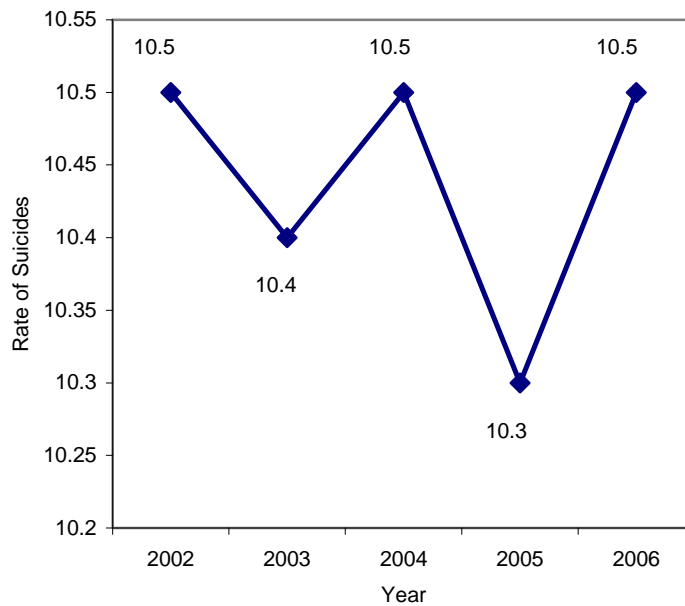
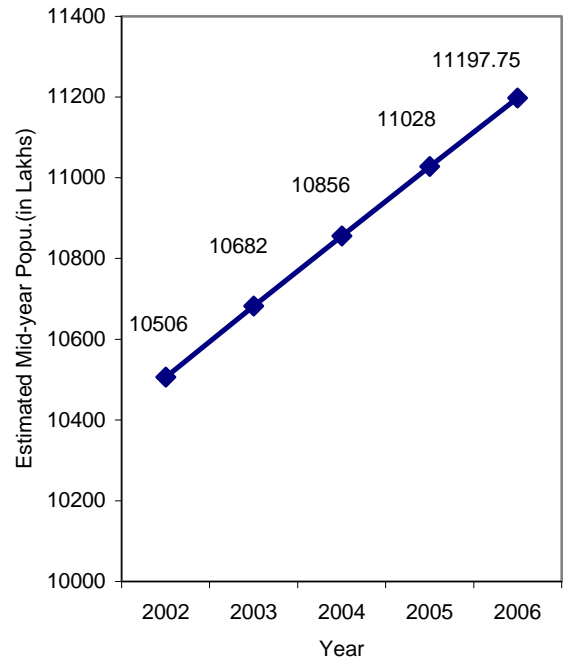
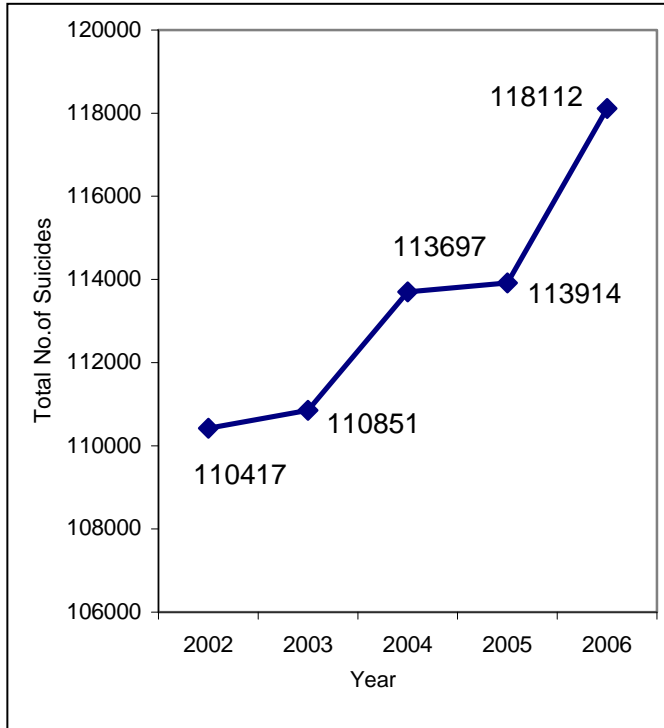
Sl. No.	Year	Total number of Suicides	Estimated Mid-Year Population* (in Lakhs)**	Rate of Suicides (Col.3/Col.4)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
1	2002	110417	10506	10.5
2	2003	110851	10682	10.4
3	2004	113697	10856	10.5
4	2005	113914	11028	10.3
5	2006	118112	11197.75	10.5

* – Source: The Registrar General of India

** – One Lakh = 0.1 Million

Figure – 2.1

Growth in Incidence of Suicides, Population and Rate of Suicides During 2002 to 2006



Incidence and Percentage Share of Suicides in States/UTs

The State/UT and City wise information on the number of suicides reported, its percentage share in total suicides and rate of suicides during the year are presented in **Table 2.2**. West Bengal has reported the highest number of suicides (15,725) accounting for 13.3 per cent of total suicides followed by Maharashtra (15,494) accounting for 13.1 per cent. The other States which have reported higher number of suicides during the year were Andhra Pradesh (13,276), Tamil Nadu (12,381) and Karnataka (12,212) accounting for 11.2 per cent, 10.5 per cent and 10.3 per cent respectively. These 5 States together accounted for 58.4 per cent of the total suicides reported in the country. The remaining 41.6 per cent suicides were

reported in the rest of 23 States and 7 UTs. Uttar Pradesh, the most populous state (16.5% share of population) has reported comparatively lower percentage of suicidal deaths, accounting for only 2.6 per cent of the total suicides reported in the country.

The States which have witnessed significantly higher cases of suicidal deaths during the year 2004 to 2006 are presented in the **Table - 2(B)**. These States have accounted for 10 per cent or more of the total suicides reported in the country during 2004 to 2006. All the five States viz. West Bengal, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka have registered consistently higher number of suicidal deaths during the last few years.

Figure – 2.2

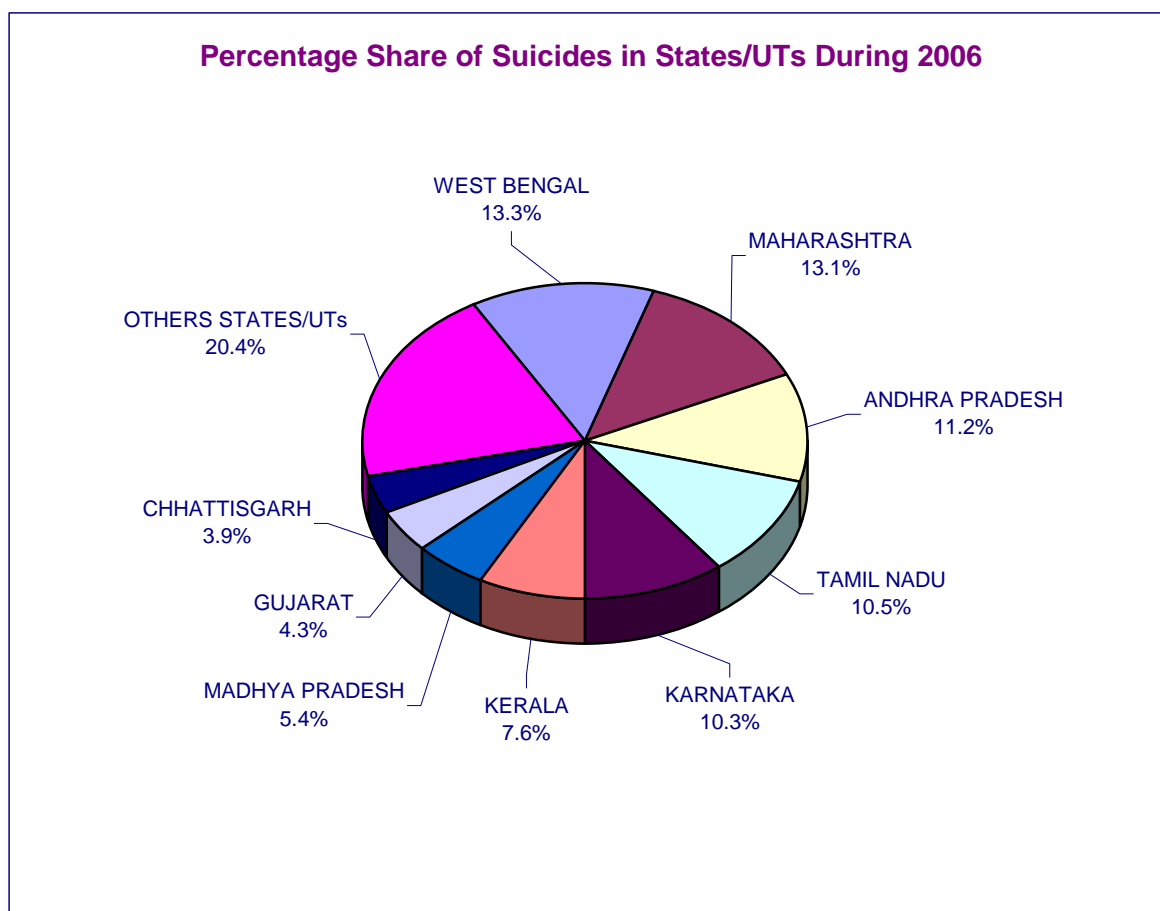


Table – 2 (B)
States with higher percentage share of Suicides during 2004 to 2006

Sl. No.	Year					
	2004		2005		2006	
1	Maharashtra	(13.0)	West Bengal	(13.2)	West Bengal	(13.3)
2	Andhra Pradesh	(11.9)	Maharashtra	(12.7)	Maharashtra	(13.1)
3	West Bengal	(11.8)	Andhra Pradesh	(11.8)	Andhra Pradesh	(11.2)
4	Tamil Nadu	(11.3)	Tamil Nadu	(10.6)	Tamil Nadu	(10.5)
5	Karnataka	(10.5)	Karnataka	(10.1)	Karnataka	(10.3)

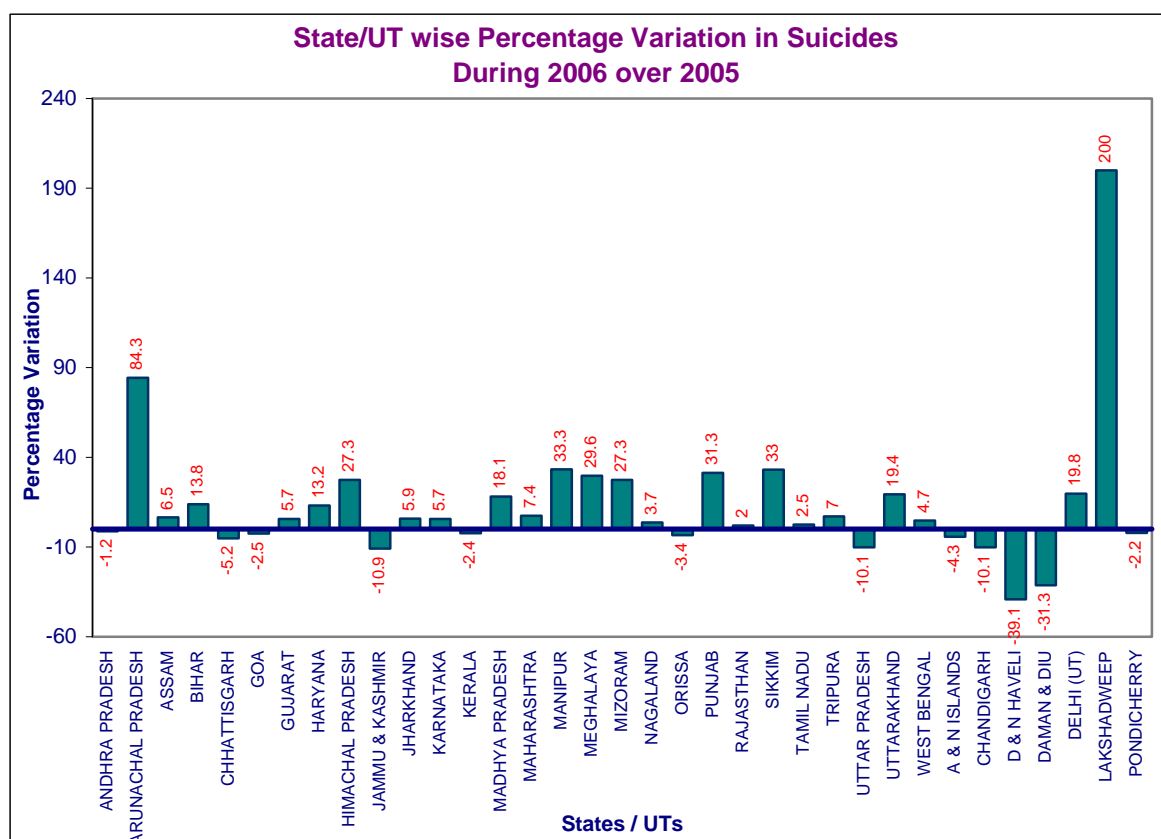
West Bengal has reported the third highest number of suicidal deaths in 2004 and the highest number of such deaths in 2005 and 2006 accounting for 11.8%, 13.2% and 13.3% of total such deaths in the country in 2004, 2005 and 2006 respectively.

Delhi has reported the highest number of suicides (1,492) among UTs, followed by Pondicherry (526). Seven UTs together accounted for 1.9 per cent of total suicides in the country. 35 mega cities on the contrary,

accounted for 11.7 per cent of the total suicides in the country.

The States and UTs which have reported significant increase in Suicides in 2006 over 2005 were Lakshadweep (from 0 in 2005 to 2 in 2006), followed by Arunachal Pradesh (an increase of 84.3%), Manipur (33.3%), Sikkim (33%), Punjab (31.3%), Meghalaya (29.6%), Himachal Pradesh and Mizoram (27.3% each), Delhi (19.8%) and Uttarakhand (19.4%) as compared to national average of 3.7%. (Table 2.3)

Figure – 2.3



Mass/Family Suicides

An attempt has been made this year also to collect information on the number of cases where family members have committed suicide jointly under a common pact. Six States viz. Assam, Bihar, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand did not furnish this information. The available information is presented in **Table – 2(C)**.

426 deaths at the national level under common pact of Mass/Family suicides consisting of 223 males and 203 females were reported as per the information available. Nine cities viz. Asansol, Bangalore, Bhopal, Chennai, Indore, Kolkata, Lucknow, Meerut and Patna also did not furnish information. The available statistics reveal that there were 16 mass suicidal deaths consisting of 8 males and 8 females in mega

cities.

The highest number of cases were reported from Chattisgarh (131) followed by Kerala and Rajasthan (29 each) out of 237 cases.

Rate of Suicides — Trends in States/UTs

Rate of suicides, i.e., the number of suicides per one lakh population, has been widely accepted as a standard yardstick. The All India rate of suicides was 10.5 during the year as compared to 10.3 during 2005. Pondicherry reported the highest rate of suicide (50.2) followed by Andaman & Nicobar Islands (33.6), Kerala (26.8), Sikkim (25) and Tripura (22.3).

The details of States/UTs which have recorded higher rate of suicides during 2004 to 2006 are given in **Table – 2(D)**.

Figure – 2.4

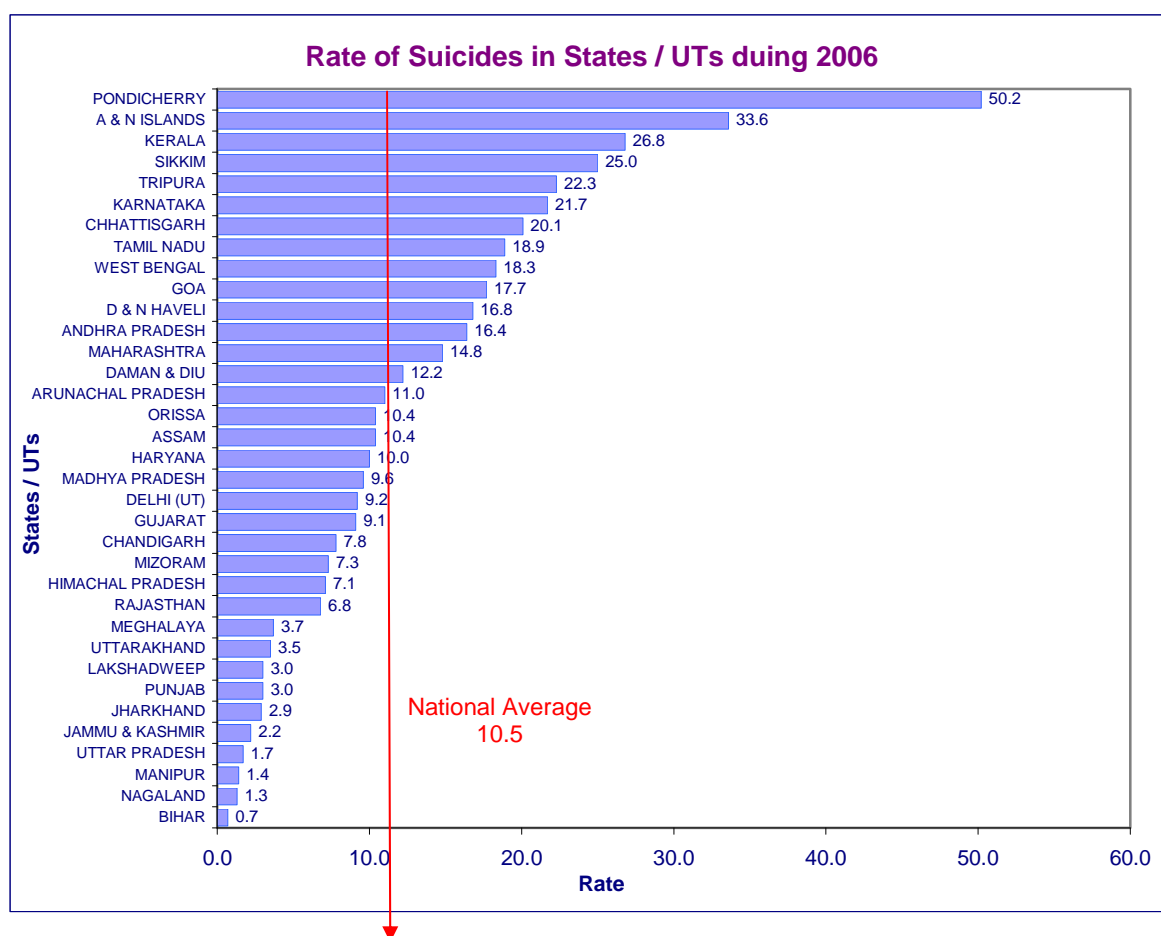


Table – 2 (C)
State/UT/City wise Distribution of Family Suicides During 2006

Sl. No.	State/UT	No. Of Cases	Adults		Minor*		Total Victims
			Male	Female	Male	Female	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
STATES:							
1	ANDHRA PRADESH	26	22	32	5	25	84
2	ARUNACHAL PRADESH	0	0	0	0	0	0
3	ASSAM	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
4	BIHAR	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
5	CHHATTISGARH	131	96	32	1	2	131
6	GOA	0	0	0	0	0	0
7	GUJARAT	5	6	6	1	2	15
8	HARYANA	0	0	0	0	0	0
9	HIMACHAL PRADESH	0	0	0	0	0	0
10	JAMMU & KASHMIR	0	0	0	0	0	0
11	JHARKHAND	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
12	KARNATAKA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
13	KERALA	29	28	28	13	11	80
14	MADHYA PRADESH	1	1	1	0	0	2
15	MAHARASHTRA	1	1	1	0	0	2
16	MANIPUR	0	0	0	0	0	0
17	MEGHALAYA	0	0	0	0	0	0
18	MIZORAM	0	0	0	0	0	0
19	NAGALAND	0	0	0	0	0	0
20	ORISSA	0	0	0	0	0	0
21	PUNJAB	0	0	0	0	0	0
22	RAJASTHAN	29	11	27	16	15	69
23	SIKKIM	0	0	0	0	0	0
24	TAMIL NADU	12	11	13	6	4	34
25	TRIPURA	0	0	0	0	0	0
26	UTTAR PRADESH	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
27	UTTARAKHAND	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
28	WEST BENGAL	3	2	3	3	1	9
	TOTAL (STATES)	237	178	143	45	60	426
UNION TERRITORIES:							
29	A & N ISLANDS						
30	CHANDIGARH	0	0	0	0	0	0
31	D & N HAVELI	0	0	0	0	0	0
32	DAMAN & DIU	0	0	0	0	0	0
33	DELHI (UT)	0	0	0	0	0	0
34	LAKSHADWEEP	0	0	0	0	0	0
35	PONDICHERRY	0	0	0	0	0	0
	TOTAL(UTs)	0	0	0	0	0	0
	TOTAL (ALL INDIA)	237	178	143	45	60	426

Table – 2 (C) (Concluded)
State/UT/City wise Distribution of Family Suicides During 2006

Sl. No.	City	No. Of Cases	Adults		Minor*		Total
			Male	Female	Male	Female	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
	CITIES:						
36	AGRA	0	0	0	0	0	0
37	AHMEDABAD	0	0	0	0	0	0
38	ALLAHABAD	0	0	0	0	0	0
39	AMRITSAR	0	0	0	0	0	0
40	ASANSOL	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
41	BANGALORE	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
42	BHOPAL	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
43	CHENNAI	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
44	COIMBATORE	3	3	4	2	2	11
45	DELHI (CITY)	0	0	0	0	0	0
46	DHANBAD	0	0	0	0	0	0
47	FARIDABAD	0	0	0	0	0	0
48	HYDERABAD	0	0	0	0	0	0
49	INDORE	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
50	JABALPUR	0	0	0	0	0	0
51	JAIPUR	0	0	0	0	0	0
52	JAMSHEDPUR	0	0	0	0	0	0
53	KANPUR	0	0	0	0	0	0
54	KOCHI	1	1	1	1	0	3
55	KOLKATA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
56	LUCKNOW	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
57	LUDHIANA	0	0	0	0	0	0
58	MADURAI	0	0	0	0	0	0
59	MEERUT	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
60	MUMBAI	0	0	0	0	0	0
61	NAGPUR	0	0	0	0	0	0
62	NASIK	0	0	0	0	0	0
63	PATNA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
64	PUNE	0	0	0	0	0	0
65	RAJKOT	0	0	0	0	0	0
66	SURAT	0	0	0	0	0	0
67	VADODARA	0	0	0	0	0	0
68	VARANASI	0	0	0	0	0	0
69	VIJAYAWADA	1	1	1	0	0	2
70	VISHAKHAPATNAM	0	0	0	0	0	0
	TOTAL (CITIES)	5	5	6	3	2	16

Note : N.A. stand for data not available.

* Below 18 years of age.

Table – 2 (D)

States/UTs with Higher Suicide Rate During 2004 To 2006					
		Year			
2004		2005		2006	
Pondicherry	53.6	Pondicherry	52.1	Pondicherry	50.2
A & N Islands	32.7	A & N Islands	35.8	A & N Islands	33.6
Kerala	27.8	D & N Haveli	28.3	Kerala	26.8
Tripura	23.4	Kerala	27.7	Sikkim	25.0
Karnataka	22.0	Chhattishgarh	21.6	Tripura	22.3
National Rate	(10.6)	National Rate	(10.3)	National Rate	(10.5)

Pondicherry, A & N Islands and Kerala continued to report higher suicide rates during the last 3 years. While Kerala has recorded suicide rates more than twice the national average during the last three years, UTs of Pondicherry and A & N Islands have recorded more than 5 and 3 times of the national average respectively.

Causes of Suicides

'Family Problems' and 'Illness', accounting for 26.1% and 22.5% respectively, were the major causes of suicides among the specified

causes. 'Love Affairs' (3.4%), 'Bankruptcy' (2.8%) and poverty (2.2%) were the other causes driving people towards suicides.

Suicides due to 'Bankruptcy' and 'Drug Abuse/Addiction' have shown an increasing trend during last 3 years. Suicides due to 'Unemployment' and 'Dowry Dispute' have shown a declining trend during last 3 years whereas suicides due to 'Suspected/Illicit Relation' have shown a mixed trend during this period. [Table-2(E)]

Figure – 2.5

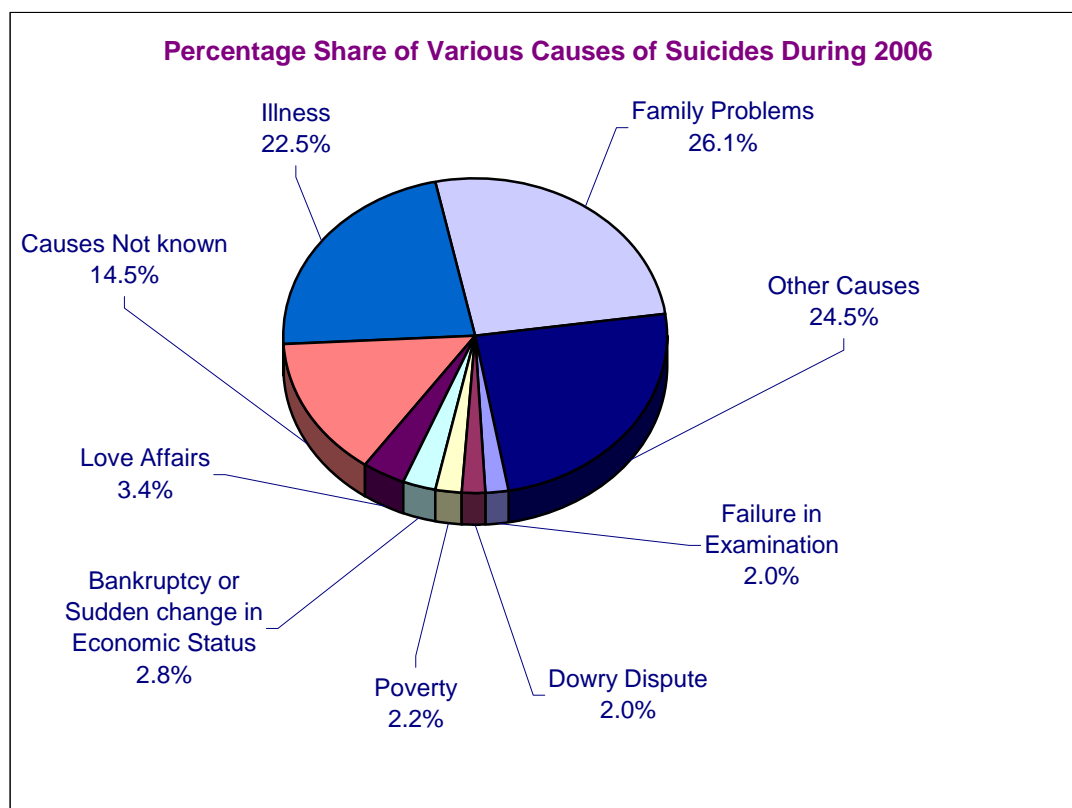


Table - 2 (E)
Suicides and their Share by Causes During 2004 - 2006 (All India)

Sl. No.	Cause	2004		2005		2006		% Variation in 2006 Over 2005
		Suicides	% Share	Suicides	% Share	Suicides	% Share	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
1	Bankruptcy or Sudden change in Economic Status	3063	2.7	3095	2.7	3320	2.8	7.3
2	Suspected/Illicit Relation	1216	1.1	1220	1.1	1134	1.0	-7.0
3	Cancellation/Non-Settlement of Marriage	762	0.7	957	0.8	865	0.7	-9.6
4	Not having Children(Barrenness/Impotency)	694	0.6	775	0.7	642	0.5	-17.2
5	Illness	25452	22.4	25061	22.0	26619	22.5	6.2
	(i) AIDS/STD	668	0.6	1099	1.0	793	0.7	-27.8
	(ii) Cancer	822	0.7	748	0.7	747	0.6	-0.1
	(iii) Paralysis	504	0.4	790	0.7	537	0.5	-32.0
	(iv) Insanity/Mental Illness	7117	6.3	7604	6.7	8045	6.8	5.8
	(v) Other Prolonged Illness	16341	14.4	14820	13.0	16497	14.0	11.3
6	Death of Dear Person	749	0.7	820	0.7	879	0.7	7.2
7	Dowry Dispute	2638	2.3	2351	2.1	2336	2.0	-0.6
8	Divorce	367	0.3	317	0.3	394	0.3	24.3
9	Drug Abuse/Addiction	1927	1.7	2032	1.8	2188	1.9	7.7
10	Failure in Examination	2496	2.2	2283	2.0	2378	2.0	4.2
11	Fall in Social Reputation	710	0.6	1572	1.4	1345	1.1	-14.4
12	Family Problems	25531	22.5	25441	22.3	30771	26.1	21.0
13	Ideological Causes/Hero Worshipping	81	0.1	215	0.2	289	0.2	34.4
14	Illegitimate Pregnancy	204	0.2	171	0.2	267	0.2	56.1
15	Love Affairs	3799	3.3	3496	3.1	4064	3.4	16.2
16	Physical Abuse (Rape, Incest etc.)	306	0.3	202	0.2	315	0.3	55.9
17	Poverty	3403	3.0	2548	2.2	2643	2.2	3.7
18	Professional/Career Problem	1032	0.9	735	0.6	1091	0.9	48.4
19	Property Dispute	1689	1.5	1559	1.4	2244	1.9	43.9
20	Unemployment	2571	2.3	2172	1.9	1891	1.6	-12.9
21	Causes Not known	18812	16.5	17445	15.3	17159	14.5	-1.6
22	Other Causes	16195	14.2	19447	17.1	15278	12.9	-21.4
Total		113697	100.0	113914	100.0	118112	100.0	3.7

The number of suicides due to 'Illegitimate Pregnancy' showed a sharp increase of 56.1 per cent as compared to previous year, followed by 'Physical Abuse (Rape, Incest etc.)' (55.9%), 'Professional/Career Problem' (48.4%), 'Property Dispute' (43.9%), 'Ideological Causes/Hero Worshipping' (34.4%), 'Divorce' (24.3%). State, UT and City-wise details on various causes of

Maharashtra (34.7%), Tamil Nadu (31.4%), Uttarakhand (28.2%), Himachal Pradesh (27.8%) and D&N Haveli (26.2%). 8.3% suicides in Kerala were due to 'Bankruptcy or Sudden change in Economic Status'. 100% in Lakshadweep, 77.2% in Sikkim and 29.8% suicides in Punjab were due to 'Insanity/Mental Illness'. Similarly, 10.2% in Uttar Pradesh and 9.1% suicides in Madhya

Table – 2 (F)
States & UTs reporting higher share of Suicides due to Illness and Family Problems During 2006

Illness				Family Problems			
All India % Share							
22.5%				26.1%			
Sl. No.	State/UT	Suicides	% age Share	Sl. No.	State/UT	Suicides	% age Share
1	Lakshadweep	2	100.0	1	West Bengal	6147	39.1
2	Sikkim	112	77.2	2	Pondicherry	200	38.0
3	A&N Islands	62	46.6	3	Kerala	3418	37.9
4	Punjab	289	37.4	4	Meghalaya	32	34.8
5	Pondicherry	185	35.2	5	Maharashtra	5380	34.7
6	Kerala	2874	31.8	6	Tamil Nadu	3887	31.4
7	Andhra Pradesh	4210	31.7	7	Uttarakhand	92	28.2
8	Maharashtra	4674	30.2	8	Himachal Pradesh	127	27.8
9	Karnataka	3430	28.1	9	D&N Haveli	11	26.2
10	Goa	75	27.3				
11	Gujarat	1200	23.8				
12	Tamil Nadu	2879	23.3				

suicides are presented in **Table-2.10**. The States/UTs which reported more than the All-India average share under the two major causes of suicides i.e. Illness and Family Problems are grouped in the **Table-2(F)**. Twelve States/UTs have reported higher percentage share than the All India average in suicides with causes such as 'Illness'. While Lakshadweep (100%) reported all suicides due to illness, Sikkim (77.2%) has reported at least 3 out of 4 suicides due to 'illness' alone.

Similarly, nine States/UTs have reported higher share than the All India average in suicides caused due to 'Family Problems' during the year.

The States/UTs which reported higher share of suicides due to 'Family problems' after West Bengal (39.1%) were Pondicherry (38%), Kerala (37.9%), Meghalaya (34.8%),

Pradesh were due to 'Dowry Dispute'. 19% suicides in D&N Haveli and 10.7% suicides in Nagaland were due to 'Drug Abuse/Addiction'. 9.8% suicides in Jharkhand and 12.5% suicides in Chandigarh were due to 'Suspected/Illicit Relation' and 'Illegitimate Pregnancy' respectively. 15% suicides in Assam were due to 'Love Affairs'.

Suicide Victims by Sex and Age Group

Distribution of suicides by causes and sex during 2006 is presented in **Table-2(G)**. The overall male : female ratio of suicide victims for the year 2006 was 64:36, however, the proportion of Boys : Girls suicide victims (upto 14 years of age) was 48:52 i.e. almost equal number of young girls have committed suicide as their male counterparts. The proportion of female victims was comparatively more under

the heads 'Dowry Dispute' (97.4%), 'Illegitimate Pregnancy' (96.3%), 'Physical Abuse' (72.7%), 'Not having Children' (71%), 'Cancellation/Non-settlement of marriage' (59.7%), 'Divorce' (57.4%), and 'Suspected Illicit Relation' (55.7%). It is observed that social and economic causes have led most of the males to commit suicides whereas emotional and personal causes have mainly driven females to end their lives. Youths (15-29 years) and lower middle-aged people (30-44 years) were the prime groups taking recourse to the path of suicides. Around 35.7 per cent were youths in the age group of 15-29 years and 34.5 per cent were middle aged persons in the age group 30-44 years of the total suicide victims. Among the specified causes, 'Failure in Examination' (512), 'Illness' (330) and 'Family Problems' (295) were the main cause of suicides among children (2,464). 'Family Problems' have driven 11,022 youths, 11,167 lower middle aged people (30-44 years) and 6,291 upper middle aged persons(45-59 years) to commit suicide.

Nearly 43% (3,921 out of 9,127) of suicides committed by Senior citizens (above 60 years & above) were due to 'Illness'. Senior citizens have accounted for 7.7 per cent of the total victims.

Age-group wise distribution of suicide victims at State/UT/City level is given in **Table-2.5**. It is observed that 14.8 per cent (364 out of 2,464) of children (upto 14 years) who committed suicides belonged to Andhra Pradesh. 19.0 per cent (1,732 out of 9,127) senior citizens (above 60 years) belonged to Kerala.

62 per cent (57 out of 92) victims in Meghalaya were young (15-29 years) as compared to the national average of 35.7 per cent. 50% of the victims (1 out of 2) in Lakshadweep and 44.2% of the victims (57 out of 124) in Arunachal Pradesh were middle aged (30-44 years) against the national average of 34.5%.

Figure – 2.6

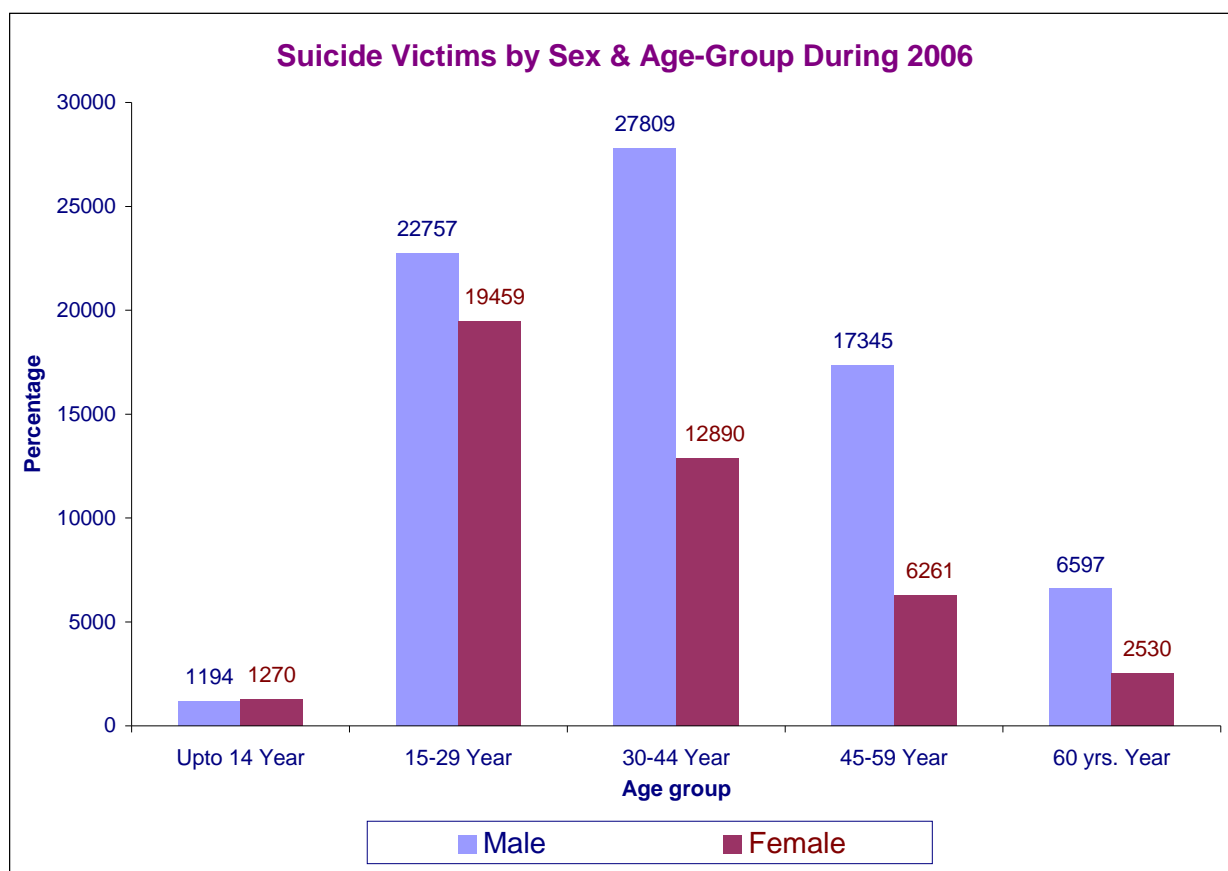


Table – 2 (G)
Distribution of Suicides by Causes and Sex
(Age-Group-wise) during 2006

Sl. No.	Cause	Upto 14 Years			15-29 Years			30-44 Years		
		Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)
1	Bankruptcy or Sudden change in Economic Status	3	3	6	445	114	559	1174	171	1345
2	Suspected/Illicit Relation	3	11	14	217	352	569	219	247	466
3	Cancellation/Non-Settlement of Marriage	0	0	0	226	395	621	113	110	223
4	Barrenness/Impotency (Not having Children)	0	0	0	45	204	249	88	208	296
5	Illness	128	202	330	4015	3143	7158	5725	2926	8651
	(i) AIDS/STD	1	11	12	135	128	263	246	112	358
	(ii) Cancer	0	2	2	50	25	75	129	81	210
	(iii) Paralysis	2	3	5	41	34	75	102	35	137
	(iv) Insanity/Mental Illness	45	69	114	1475	877	2352	1878	899	2777
	(v) Other Prolonged Illness	80	117	197	2314	2079	4393	3370	1799	5169
6	Death of Dear Person	5	7	12	104	122	226	188	121	309
7	Dowry Dispute	0	1	1	32	1720	1752	27	533	560
8	Divorce	0	0	0	29	106	135	95	88	183
9	Drug Abuse/Addiction	3	5	8	451	30	481	1045	36	1081
10	Failure in Examination	242	270	512	1038	747	1785	48	23	71
11	Social Disrepute	6	11	17	218	186	404	387	138	525
12	Family Problems	129	166	295	5366	5656	11022	7293	3874	11167
13	Ideological Causes/Hero Worshipping	3	3	6	56	58	114	81	38	119
14	Illegitimate Pregnancy	0	10	10	10	171	181	0	68	68
15	Love Affairs	18	42	60	1542	1458	3000	599	350	949
16	Physical Abuse (Rape, Incest etc.)	1	9	10	23	130	153	39	80	119
17	Poverty	14	22	36	375	170	545	914	240	1154
18	Professional/Career Problem	0	0	0	206	42	248	461	60	521
19	Property Dispute	1	2	3	416	108	524	626	228	854
20	Unemployment	1	0	1	752	116	868	686	83	769
21	Causes Not Known	298	249	547	4052	2434	6486	4151	1641	5792
22	Other Causes	339	257	596	3139	1997	5136	3850	1627	5477
	Total	1194	1270	2464	22757	19459	42216	27809	12890	40699

-Table – 2 (G) (Concluded)
Distribution of Suicides by Causes and Sex
(Age-Group-wise)

Sl. No.	Cause	45-59 Years			60 Years & above			Total		
		Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
(1)	(2)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	(17)	(18)	(19)	(20)
1	Bankruptcy or Sudden change in Economic Status	1014	87	1101	282	27	309	2918	402	3320
2	Suspected/Illicit Relation	61	22	83	2	0	2	502	632	1134
3	Cancellation/Non-Settlement of Marriage	9	10	19	1	1	2	349	516	865
4	Barrenness/Impotency (Not having Children)	45	42	87	8	2	10	186	456	642
5	Illness	4628	1931	6559	2737	1184	3921	17233	9386	26619
	(i) AIDS/STD	82	28	110	40	10	50	504	289	793
	(ii) Cancer	201	78	279	144	37	181	524	223	747
	(iii) Paralysis	143	45	188	89	43	132	377	160	537
	(iv) Insanity/Mental Illness	1265	575	1840	619	343	962	5282	2763	8045
	(v) Other Prolonged Illness	2937	1205	4142	1845	751	2596	10546	5951	16497
6	Death of Dear Person	135	124	259	48	25	73	480	399	879
7	Dowry Dispute	1	21	22	0	1	1	60	2276	2336
8	Divorce	38	32	70	6	0	6	168	226	394
9	Drug Abuse/Addiction	482	11	493	116	9	125	2097	91	2188
10	Failure in Examination	6	3	9	1	0	1	1335	1043	2378
11	Social Disrepute	219	97	316	59	24	83	889	456	1345
12	Family Problems	4440	1851	6291	1444	552	1996	18672	12099	30771
13	Ideological Causes/Hero Worshipping	29	9	38	11	1	12	180	109	289
14	Illegitimate Pregnancy	0	8	8	0	0	0	10	257	267
15	Love Affairs	36	18	54	0	1	1	2195	1869	4064
16	Physical Abuse (Rape Incest etc.)	20	6	26	3	4	7	86	229	315
17	Poverty	547	156	703	145	60	205	1995	648	2643
18	Professional/Career Problem	235	30	265	53	4	57	955	136	1091
19	Property Dispute	530	240	770	74	19	93	1647	597	2244
20	Unemployment	211	28	239	14	0	14	1664	227	1891
21	Causes Not Known	2476	737	3213	842	279	1121	11819	5340	17159
22	Other Causes	2183	798	2981	751	337	1088	10262	5016	15278
	Total	17345	6261	23606	6597	2530	9127	75702	42410	118112

Professional Status of Suicide Victims

Information regarding professional status of suicide victims is presented in **Table-2.6**. Housewives (25,063) accounted for 59.1 per cent of the total female victims which are nearly 21.2 per cent of total victims committing suicides. Government servants were merely 1.8 per cent of the total suicide victims.

Private and Public Sector personnel have accounted for 7.7 per cent and 2.0 per cent of the total suicide victims respectively, whereas students and un-employed victims accounted for 5 per cent and 7.5 per cent respectively. Self employed category accounted for 41% of victims. It comprised of 14.4 per cent engaged in Farming / Agriculture activities, 5.9 per cent engaged in Business and 3.1 per cent Professionals.

State/UT-wise and Profession wise analysis (**Table-2.11**) of suicide victims reveals that Housewives and Government servants have accounted for 50 per cent each of suicide victims in Lakshadweep. A & N Islands has reported 47.4 per cent victims who were privately employed. 36.1 per cent of victims in Manipur were Students. 31.3 per cent of victims in Chandigarh were Unemployed, while 33.3 per cent victims in Pondicherry were employed in Farming/Agricultural activities.

Age-wise profile of professional status of victims during the year shows that nearly 45.2 per cent of 'Housewives', 46.2 per cent 'Unemployed' and 75.6 per cent of Students who had committed suicides during 2006 were in the age-group (15-29 years).

Social Status of Suicide Victims

The information on the marital status of suicide victims has been presented in **Table-2.7**. It was observed that 72.2 per cent of the suicide victims were married while 20.7 per cent were un-married. Divorcees and Separated have accounted for about 3.2 per cent of the total suicide victims. The proportion of Widow & Widower victims was around 3.9 per cent.

The State/UT-wise distribution of suicide victims by Marital Status is presented in **Table-2.12**. It was observed that 51.3 per cent of victims in Chandigarh, 50 per cent each in Manipur and Daman & Diu and 46.4 per cent in Nagaland were unmarried against 20.7 per cent at National level. 100 per cent of victims in Lakshadweep, 79.1 per cent victims in Arunachal Pradesh and 77.5 per cent victims in Kerala on the contrary were married against the National average of 72.2 per cent.

Educational Status of Suicide Victims

The sex-wise and education-wise break-up of suicide victims is presented in **Table-2.8**. The maximum numbers of suicide victims were educated up to Middle level (24.5 per cent) Illiterate and Primary educated suicide victims accounted for 21.3 per cent suicide victims and 24.1 per cent respectively. Only 2.2 per cent suicide victims were graduates and post-graduates. 73.8 per cent suicide victims in D&N Haveli, 40.7 per cent in Sikkim were illiterate. 39.1 per cent in A & N Islands, 38.4 per cent in Gujarat and 36.4 per cent in Daman & Diu had education upto primary level. 52.1 per cent victims in Pondicherry and 42.9 per cent victims in A & N Islands had middle level education. (**Table-2.13**)

Figure – 2.7

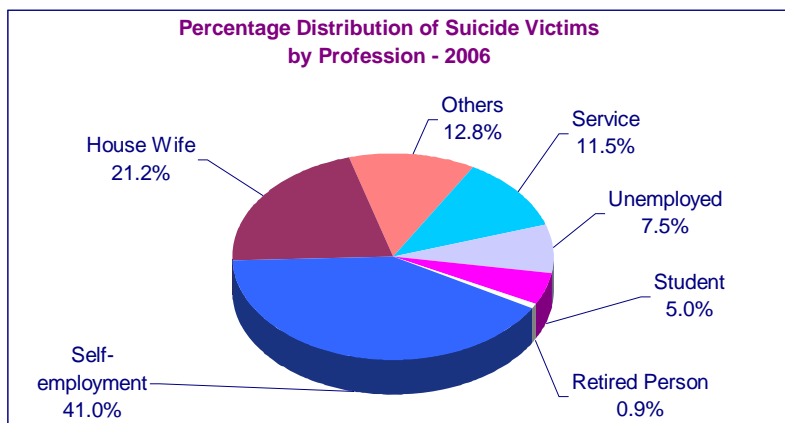


Figure – 2.8

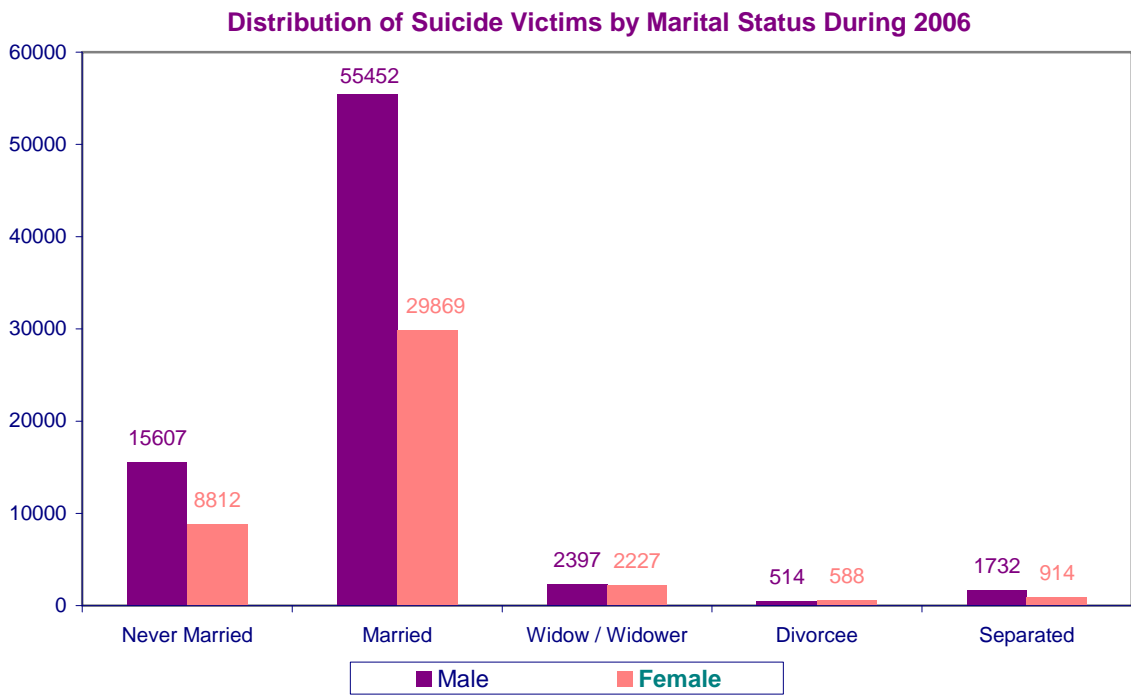


Figure – 2.9

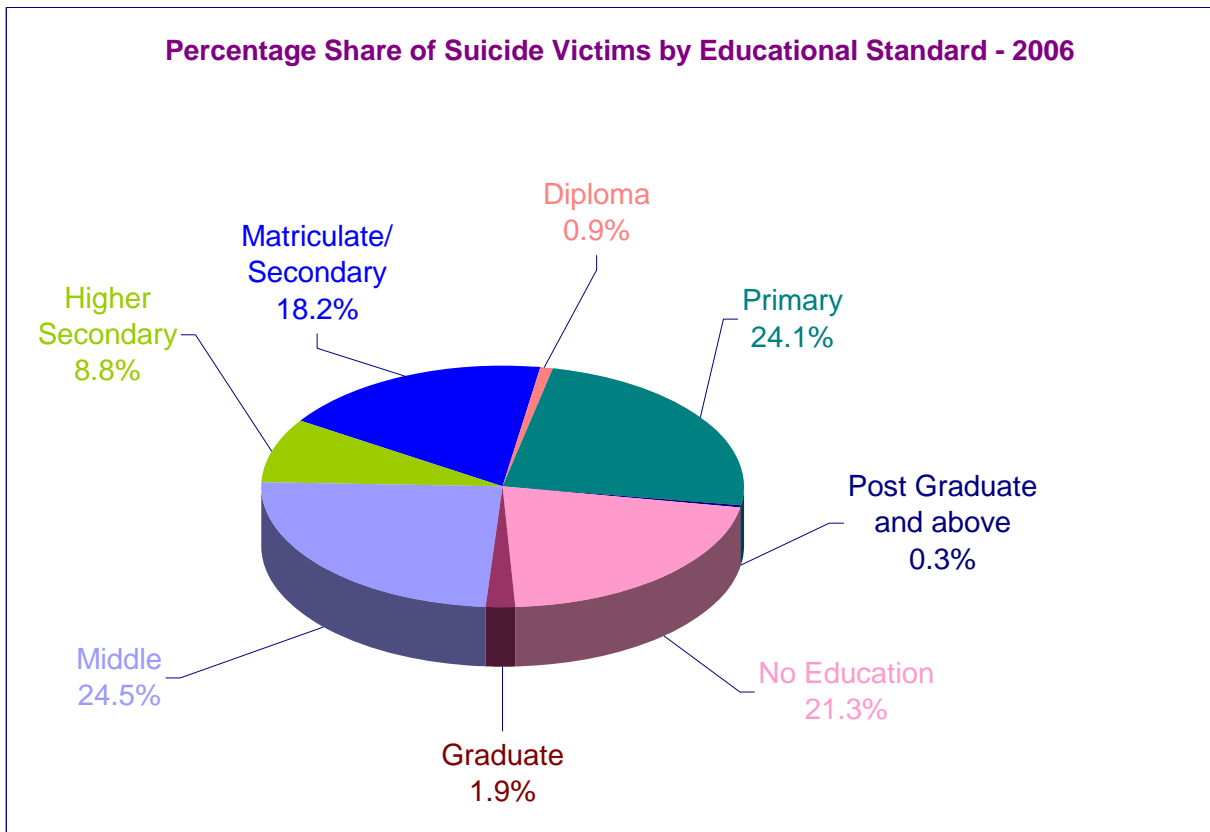


Table – 2 (H)

Percentage of Suicide Victims by Educational Level — 2004-2006

Sl.No.	Educational Level	Percentage Share		
		2004	2005	2006
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
1	No Education	23.7	23.0	21.3
2	Primary	25.2	25.8	24.1
3	Middle	23.5	24.0	24.5
4	Matriculate/Secondary	16.9	16.8	18.2
5	Higher Secondary	7.6	7.4	8.8
6	Diploma	0.7	0.9	0.9
7	Graduate	1.8	1.8	1.9
8	Post-Graduate & above	0.6	0.4	0.3
	Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Means Adopted for Committing Suicides

The means adopted for committing suicide varied from the easily available means such as consumption of poison, jumping into the well,

large number of victims who terminated their lives by hanging have been reported from Arunachal Pradesh (84.5%), D&N Haveli (83.3%), A&N Islands (80.5%), and Sikkim (77.2%). Share of suicides by 'Drowning' has

Table – 2 (I)

Percentage share of the Means adopted in Committing Suicides during 2004-2006

Sl. No.	Means Adopted	% Share		
		2004	2005	2006
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
1	Alcoholism	0.9	0.9	1.1
2	Drowning	6.3	6.8	7.3
3	Fire/self immolation	7.6	7.9	8.7
4	Fire arms	0.4	0.7	0.3
5	Hanging	31.2	32.1	32.8
6	Poisoning	37.5	36.6	35.5
	i) Consumption of insecticides	20.5	19.6	19.4
	ii) Other poisons	16.7	16.8	15.9
7	Self infliction of injury	0.3	0.2	0.2
8	Jumping from	0.9	0.9	1.2
	i) Buildings	0.4	0.5	0.4
	ii) Other sites	0.5	0.4	0.7
9	Jumping off from moving vehicles/trains	0.5	0.7	0.8
10	Machine	0.1	0.1	0.1
11	Over dose of sleeping pills	0.9	0.7	0.7
12	Self electrocution	0.9	0.9	0.5
13	Coming under running vehicles/train	2.7	2.7	3.2
14	Other means	9.8	9.1	8.0
	Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

etc. to more painful means such as self inflicted injuries, hanging, shooting, etc. Suicide by Consuming Poison (35.5%), Hanging (32.8%), Self Immolation (8.7%) and Drowning (7.3%) were the prominent means of committing suicides (Table – 2.9) as in past. Sufficiently

increased from 6.8% to 7.3% in 2006 while 'Poisoning' came down from 36.6% to 35.5% and 'Self Immolation' has increased from 7.9% to 8.7% in 2006. The State/UT's share of suicides by 'Hanging' and 'Poisoning' is presented in **Table – 2(J)**.

Table – 2 (J)
States/UTs having higher Percentage share of Suicides Committed
by Consumption of Poison and Hanging than National average — 2006

Consumption of Poison				By Hanging			
All-India Share (35.5%)				All-India Share (32.8%)			
Sl. No.	States/UTs	Cases	% share	Sl. No.	States/UTs	Cases	% share
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
1	Andhra Pradesh	6775	51.0	1	Arunachal Pradesh	109	84.5
2	Himachal Pradesh	232	50.8	2	D & N Haveli	35	83.3
3	Gujarat	2113	42.0	3	A & N Islands	107	80.5
4	Uttarakhand	127	39.0	4	Sikkim	112	77.2
5	West Bengal	6087	38.7	5	Meghalaya	68	73.9
6	Orissa	1563	38.5	6	Mizoram	47	67.1
7	Maharashtra	5869	37.9	7	Manipur	24	66.7
8	Tripura	280	36.6	8	Pondicherry	346	65.8
9	Daman & Diu	8	36.4	9	Chandigarh	49	61.3
10	Karnataka	4331	35.5	10	Delhi (UT)	899	60.3
				11	Daman & Diu	11	50.0
				12	Kerala	4427	49.0
				13	Goa	133	48.4
				14	Tripura	363	47.5
				15	Assam	1411	46.6
				16	Nagaland	13	46.4
				17	West Bengal	6396	40.7
				18	Chhattisgarh	1830	39.6
				19	Madhya Pradesh	2358	36.6
				20	Maharashtra	5088	32.8

Table – 2 (K)
Distribution of Age-group wise & Sex wise Suicides Classified according to Means Adopted during 2006

Sl. No.	Means Adopted	Upto 14 Years			15-29 Years			30-44 Years		
		Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)
1	Excessive Alcoholism	4	0	4	194	10	204	552	17	569
2	Drowning	195	195	390	1528	1330	2858	1832	980	2812
3	Fire/Self Immolation	38	111	149	959	3441	4400	1425	2088	3513
4	Fire-Arms	2	3	5	95	19	114	138	22	160
5	Hanging	257	262	519	7731	6397	14128	9731	3948	13679
6	Poisoning	360	465	825	8766	6423	15189	10003	4304	14307
	(i) Consumption of Insecticides	193	228	421	4646	3500	8146	5625	2276	7901
	(ii) Consumption of other Poison	159	235	394	4079	2896	6975	4323	2004	6327
7	Self Infliction of injury	8	2	10	41	27	68	55	24	79
8	Jumping	17	7	24	325	158	483	401	124	525
	(i) From Building	4	4	8	129	81	210	148	34	182
	(ii) From Other sites	13	3	16	196	77	273	253	90	343
9	Jumping off Moving Vehicles/Trains	17	6	23	223	86	309	241	77	318
10	By Machine	1	0	1	32	9	41	30	12	42
11	Overdose of sleeping pills	9	10	19	86	99	185	155	64	219
12	Self-electrocution	14	5	19	200	44	244	180	46	226
13	Coming under running vehicles/trains	37	22	59	836	276	1112	1095	253	1348
14	Other means	243	184	427	1782	1167	2949	2026	955	2981
Total		1194	1270	2464	22757	19459	42216	27809	12890	40699
Percentage		1.0	1.1	2.1	19.3	16.5	35.7	23.5	10.9	34.5

Table – 2 (K) (Concluded)

SI. No.	Means Adopted	45-59 Years			60 Years & above			Total			Percentage of Male to Total
		Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	
(1)	(2)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	(17)	(18)	(19)	(20)	
1	Excessive Alcoholism	357	17	374	98	7	105	1205	51	1256	95.9
2	Drowning	1139	495	1634	521	364	885	5215	3364	8579	60.8
3	Fire/Self Immolation	766	827	1593	246	342	588	3434	6809	10243	33.5
4	Fire-Arms	51	10	61	13	0	13	299	54	353	84.7
5	Hanging	5868	1915	7783	2023	574	2597	25610	13096	38706	66.2
6	Poisoning	6320	2074	8394	2378	803	3181	27827	14069	41896	66.4
	(i) Consumption of insecticides	3561	1060	4621	1373	485	1858	15398	7549	22947	67.1
	(ii) Consumption of other Poison	2725	1009	3734	988	315	1303	12274	6459	18733	65.5
7	Self Infliction of injury	34	5	39	17	3	20	155	61	216	71.8
8	Jumping	190	73	263	59	29	88	992	391	1383	71.7
	(i) From Building	67	18	85	24	7	31	372	144	516	72.1
	(ii) From Other sites	123	55	178	35	22	57	620	247	867	71.5
9	Jumping off Moving Vehicles/Trains	165	23	188	35	13	48	681	205	886	76.9
10	By Machine	25	5	30	2	1	3	90	27	117	76.9
11	Overdose of sleeping pills	130	55	185	136	40	176	516	268	784	65.8
12	Self electrocution	76	11	87	22	3	25	492	109	601	81.9
13	Coming under running vehicles/trains	780	160	940	294	69	363	3042	780	3822	79.6
14	Other means	1478	596	2074	770	285	1055	6299	3187	9486	66.4
Total		17345	6261	23606	6597	2530	9127	75702	42410	118112	64.1
Percentage		14.7	5.3	20.0	5.6	2.1	7.7	64.1	35.9	100.0	

The sex-wise break-up and percentage distribution of the means adopted for suicides in various States/UTs & Cities is presented in **Table – 2.14**. The number of male victims was more than females for all means of suicides except those committed by 'Self immolation' where share of female victims was more (66.5%).

Suicides in Cities

The number of suicides in 35 mega cities have reported a mixed trend during the year 2002 to 2006. The rate of suicides has been hovering around 10 during 2002 and 2004, 11 in 2003 and 2005 while it is around 12 in 2006.

Table – 2 (L)

Year	Suicides in Cities	Cities share to All India	Rate in Cities	% Variation over previous year (incidence)
2002	11439	10.4	10.6	0.2
2003	12020	10.8	11.1	5.1
2004	11708	10.3	10.9	-2.6
2005	12331	10.8	11.4	5.3
2006	13844	11.7	12.8	12.3

21.1 per cent suicides in Goa were committed by 'Drowning'. 'Self Immolation' was main means of suicides in Lakshadweep accounting for 100 per cent of total suicides. 25 percent suicides were committed by Fire-Arms in Manipur. 84.5 percent suicides were committed by Hanging in Arunachal Pradesh.

The four Metropolitan Cities – Chennai (2,427), Bangalore (2,008), Delhi (1,296), and Mumbai (1,195), have reported higher number of Suicides. These four cities together have reported 50% of the total suicides reported from 35 mega cities. Ludhiana city reported high increase 94.4% (from 36 cases in 2005 to 70 cases in 2006). Dhanbad city has reported a decline of 54.6 per cent (141 cases in 2005 to 64 cases in 2006) over 2005.

Table – 2 (M)
Comparative Percentage Distribution of Suicides by Causes in Cities and All-India (Major Causes)

Sl. No.	Cause of Suicide	No. of Cases (in 2006)		Share in total suicides reported in	
		Cities	All-India	Cities	All-India
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
1.	Family Problems	3061	30771	22.1	26.1
2.	Total Illness	2653	26619	19.2	22.5
3.	Insanity/Mental Illness	789	8045	5.7	6.8
4.	Unemployment	532	1891	3.8	1.6
5.	Poverty	342	2643	2.5	2.2
6.	Love Affairs	414	4064	3.0	3.4
7.	Failure in Examination	359	2378	2.6	2.0
8.	Drug Abuse/Addiction	318	2188	2.3	1.9
9.	Dowry Dispute	317	2336	2.3	2.0
10.	Bankruptcy or Sudden Change in Economic Status	251	3320	1.8	2.8
Total		9036	84255	65.3	71.3

The suicide rate in cities (12.8) was higher as compared to All-India suicide rate (10.5). Chennai has reported the highest rate of suicides (37.8) followed by Bangalore City (35.3). Amritsar city and Kolkata had the lowest rate at 1.5 only among 35 cities.

Nearly 3.8 per cent of suicides were committed due to 'Unemployment' as against 1.6 per cent of such suicides at National level as per causal analysis of suicides in cities. Similarly, the share of suicides due to 'Cancellation/Non-settlement of Marriage', 'Not having Children', 'Death of a Dear Person', 'Ideological causes/ Hero Worship', 'Dowry Dispute', 'Poverty', 'Failure in Examination' and 'Drug Abuse/Addiction' was comparatively higher than their respective National averages.

'Family Problem' was the major cause of suicides in Surat and Asansol which took nearly half of all the lives (53.3 per cent and 50.3 per cent respectively) claimed by suicides. Similarly, the Family problem was the major cause of suicides in Madurai (49.7 per cent), Nagpur (39.9%), Indore, Amritsar (33.3 per cent each) and Coimbatore, Mumbai (33.1 per cent each). 'Dowry Dispute' (53.8 per cent) was the major cause of suicides in Indore city. 'Insanity/Mental Illness' (60 per cent) was the major cause of Suicides in Amritsar. 'Suspected/Illicit Relation' (15.7 per cent) was the major cause of suicides in Jamshedpur city. 19.1 per cent suicides in Varanasi were committed due to 'Poverty'. **(Table 2.10)**

14.3 per cent suicide victims were Government Employees in Meerut while 31.4 per cent were Private Employees in Surat. 17.3 per cent

suicide victims were engaged in Farming/ agriculture Activity in Bhopal. 29.7 per cent victims were un-employed in Patna. Persons engaged in Professional activities have constituted 15.7 per cent victims in Jamshedpur. 53.8 per cent suicides were committed by house wives in Indore.

'Educational Profile' of suicide victims revealed that around half of victims in Rajkot (55.6 per cent) and Vadodara (49.7 per cent) were educated upto 'Primary level' and 100 per cent in Amritsar had education upto matriculation level. 33.4 per cent in Coimbatore, 33.3 per cent in Indore, 33.1 per cent in Madurai, 32.6 per cent in Vadodara, 31.5 per cent victims in Agra and Kanpur each were educated upto Middle level. 36.7 per cent victims in Meerut and 36.3 per cent victims in Bhopal were uneducated. 30.8 per cent Suicide victims were educated upto Higher Secondary/Intermediate level in Indore. **[Table 2.13]**

The pattern of suicides reported from 35 cities showed that 'Hanging' (41.5 per cent), 'Poisoning' (20.6 per cent) and 'Self Immolation' (13.8 per cent) were the prominent means adopted by the suicide victims in the cities. 'Hanging' claimed nearly three-fourth (70.1 per cent) of suicides in Kochi and Kolkata. Nearly 48.7 per cent victims consumed insecticides in Indore, 37.2 per cent victims immolated themselves in Rajkot. 27.8 per cent suicides were committed by 'Drowning' in Nagpur and 12.2 per cent suicides were committed by 'Overdose of Alcohol' in Meerut. **(Table 2.14)**

Incidence and Rate of Suicides-2006

