

CHAPTER – 2

SUICIDES IN INDIA

Incidence and Rate of Suicides during the Decade (1997-2007)

More than one lakh persons (1,22,637) in the country lost their lives by committing suicide during the year 2007. This indicates an increase of 3.8% over the previous year's figure (1,18,112). [Table – 2.1]

The number of suicides in the country during the decade (1997–2007) has recorded an

increase of 28.0% (from 95,829 in 1997 to 1,22,637 in 2007). The increase in incidence of suicides was reported each year during the decade except in 2000 and 2001. The population has increased by 19.0% during the decade and the rate of suicides has increased by 8%. The rate of suicides has shown a declining trend since 1999 to 2003. A mixed trend was observed during 2003 to 2007. [Table–2.1 and 2(A)]

Table – 2 (A)

Incidence of Suicides, Growth of Population and Rate of Suicides During 2003 to 2007

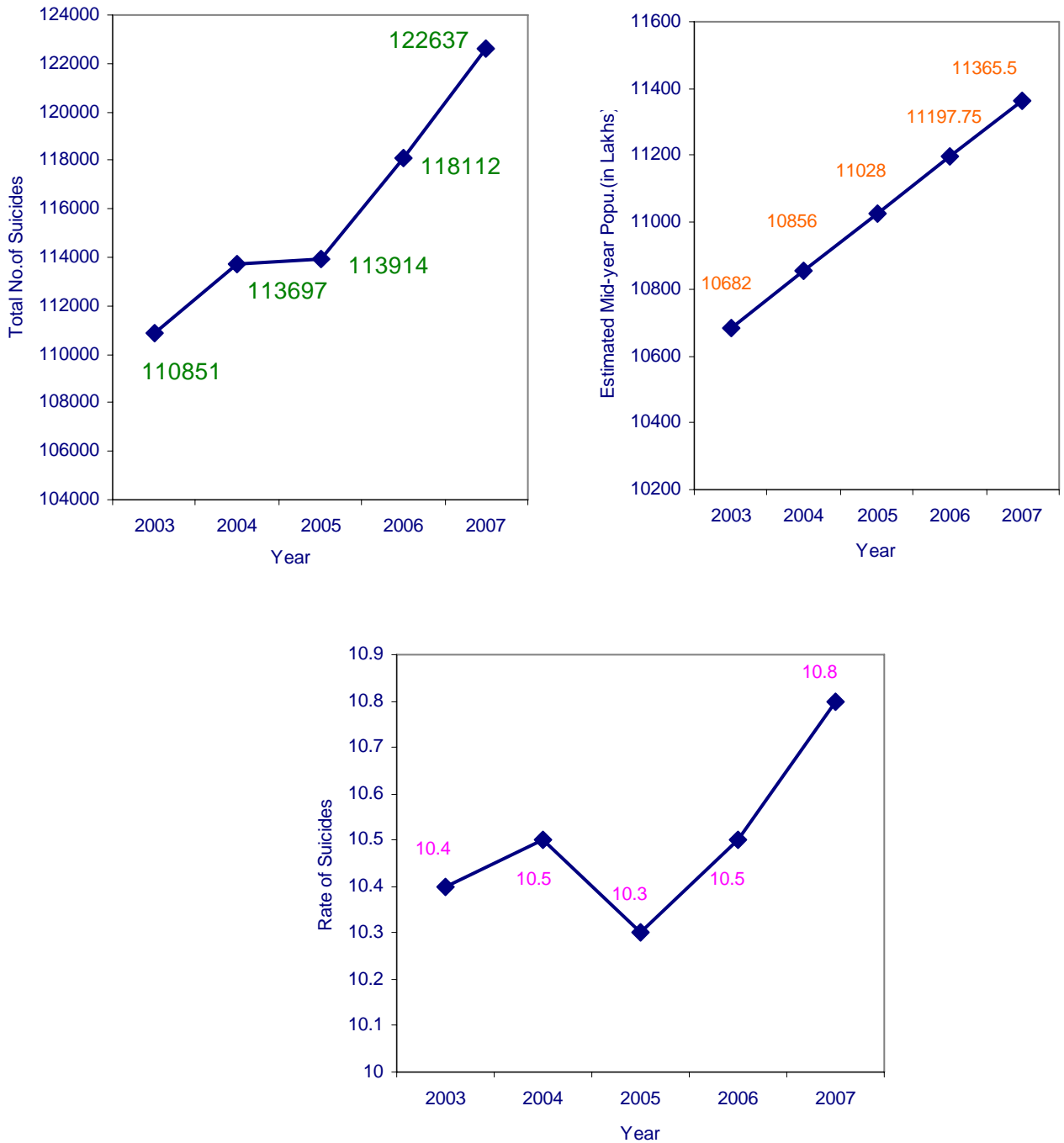
Sl. No.	Year	Total number of Suicides	Estimated Mid-Year Population* (in Lakhs)**	Rate of Suicides (Col.3/Col.4)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
1	2003	110851	10682	10.4
2	2004	113697	10856	10.5
3	2005	113914	11028	10.3
4	2006	118112	11197.75	10.5
5	2007	122637	11365.5	10.8

* – 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 2003 to 2007



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**. Maharashtra has reported the highest number of suicides (15,184) accounting for 12.4% of total suicides followed by Andhra Pradesh (14,882) accounting for 12.1%. The other States which have reported higher number of suicides during the year were West Bengal (14,860), Tamil Nadu (13,811) and Karnataka (12,304) accounting for 12.1%, 11.3% and 10.0% respectively. These 5 States together accounted for 57.9% of the total suicides reported in the country. The remaining 42.1% suicides were reported in the rest of 23 States

and 7 UTs. Uttar Pradesh, the most populous state (16.6% share of population) has reported comparatively lower percentage of suicidal deaths, accounting for only 3.2% of the total suicides reported in the country.

The States which have witnessed significantly higher cases of suicidal deaths during the year 2005 to 2007 are presented in the **Table – 2(B)**. These States have accounted for 10% or more of the total suicides reported in the country during 2005 to 2007. All the five States viz. Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka have registered consistently higher number of suicidal deaths during the last few years.

Figure – 2.2

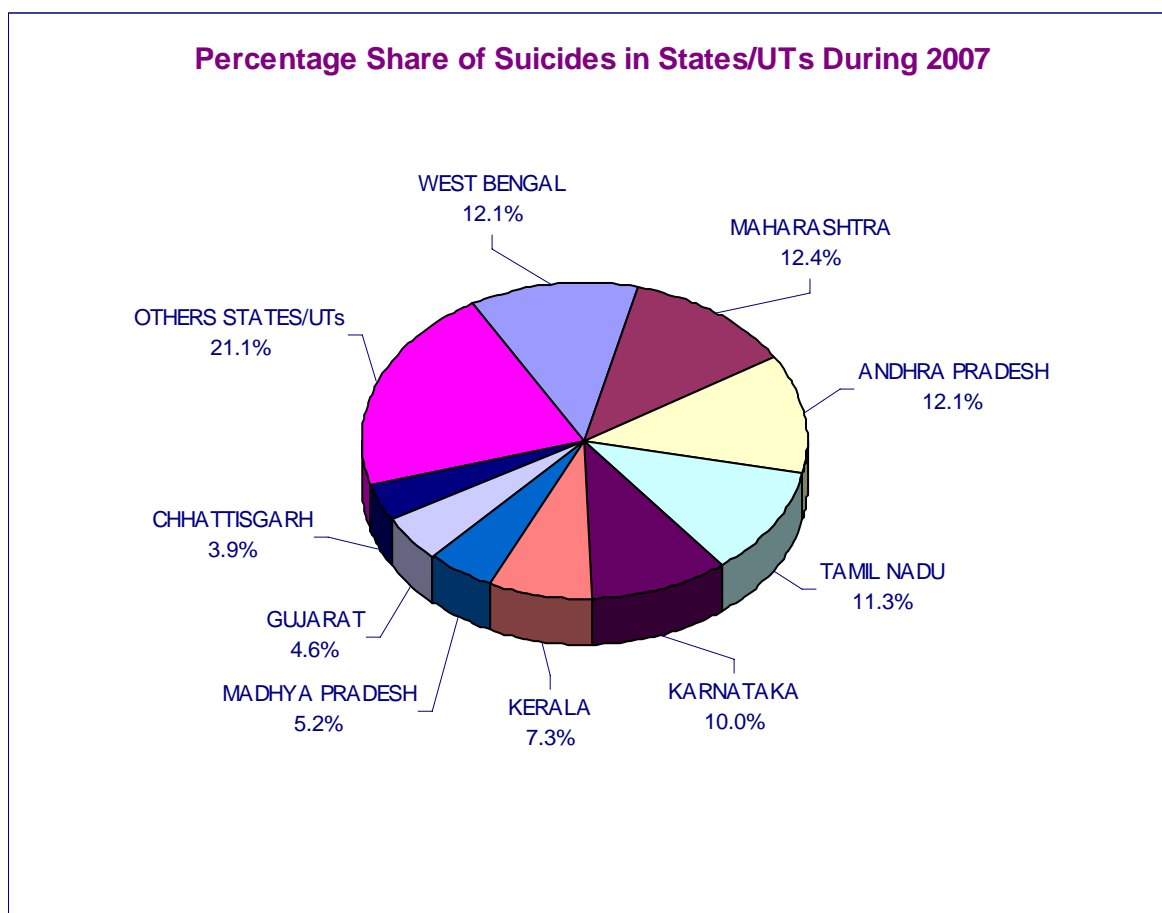


Table – 2 (B)
States with higher percentage share of Suicides during 2005 to 2007

Sl. No.	Year					
	2005		2006		2007	
1	West Bengal	(13.2)	West Bengal	(13.3)	Maharashtra	(12.4)
2	Maharashtra	(12.7)	Maharashtra	(13.1)	Andhra Pradesh	(12.1)
3	Andhra Pradesh	(11.8)	Andhra Pradesh	(11.2)	West Bengal	(12.1)
4	Tamil Nadu	(10.6)	Tamil Nadu	(10.5)	Tamil Nadu	(11.3)
5	Karnataka	(10.1)	Karnataka	(10.3)	Karnataka	(10.0)

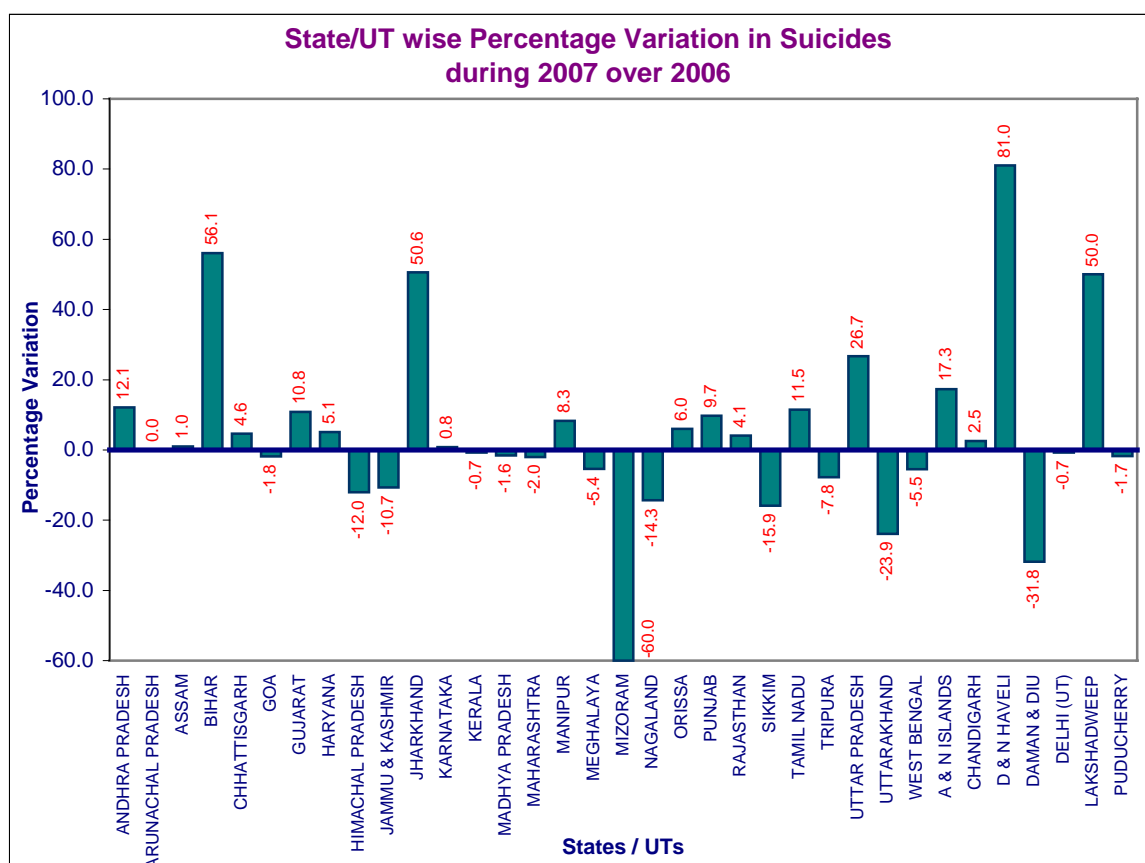
Maharashtra has reported the second highest number of suicidal deaths in 2005 and 2006 and the highest number of such deaths in 2007 accounting for 12.7%, 13.1% and 12.4% of total such deaths in the country in 2005, 2006 and 2007 respectively.

Delhi has reported the highest number of suicides (1,481) among UTs, followed by Puducherry (517). Seven UTs together accounted for 1.9% of total suicides in the country. 35 mega cities on the contrary,

accounted for 11.7% of the total suicides in the country.

The States and UTs which have reported significant increase in Suicides in 2007 over 2006 were D & N Haveli (from 42 in 2006 to 76 in 2007 – an increase of 81.0%), followed by Bihar (an increase of 56.1%), Jharkhand (50.6%), Lakshadweep (50.0%), Uttar Pradesh (26.7%), A & N Islands (17.3%), Andhra Pradesh (12.1%), Tamil Nadu (11.5%) and Gujarat (10.8%) as compared to national average of 3.8%. (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. Eight States viz. Bihar, Chhattishgarh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal did not furnish this information. The available information is presented in **Table – 2(C)**.

264 deaths at the national level under common pact of Mass/Family suicides consisting of 118 males and 146 females were reported as per the information available. Ten cities viz. Amritsar, Asansol, Bengaluru, Indore, Jabalpur, Jaipur, Kochi, Kolkata, Lucknow and Patna also did not furnish information. The available statistics reveal that there were 25 mass suicidal deaths consisting of 13 males and 12

females in mega cities.

The highest number of cases were reported from Kerala (39) followed by Andhra Pradesh (34) and Madhya Pradesh (12) out of 100 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 10.8 during the year as compared to 10.5 during 2006. Puducherry reported the highest rate of suicide (48.6) followed by A & N Islands (38.5), D & N Haveli (29.6), Kerala (26.3) and Karnataka (21.6).

The details of States/UTs which have recorded higher rate of suicides during 2005 to 2007 are given in **Table – 2(D)**.

Figure – 2.4

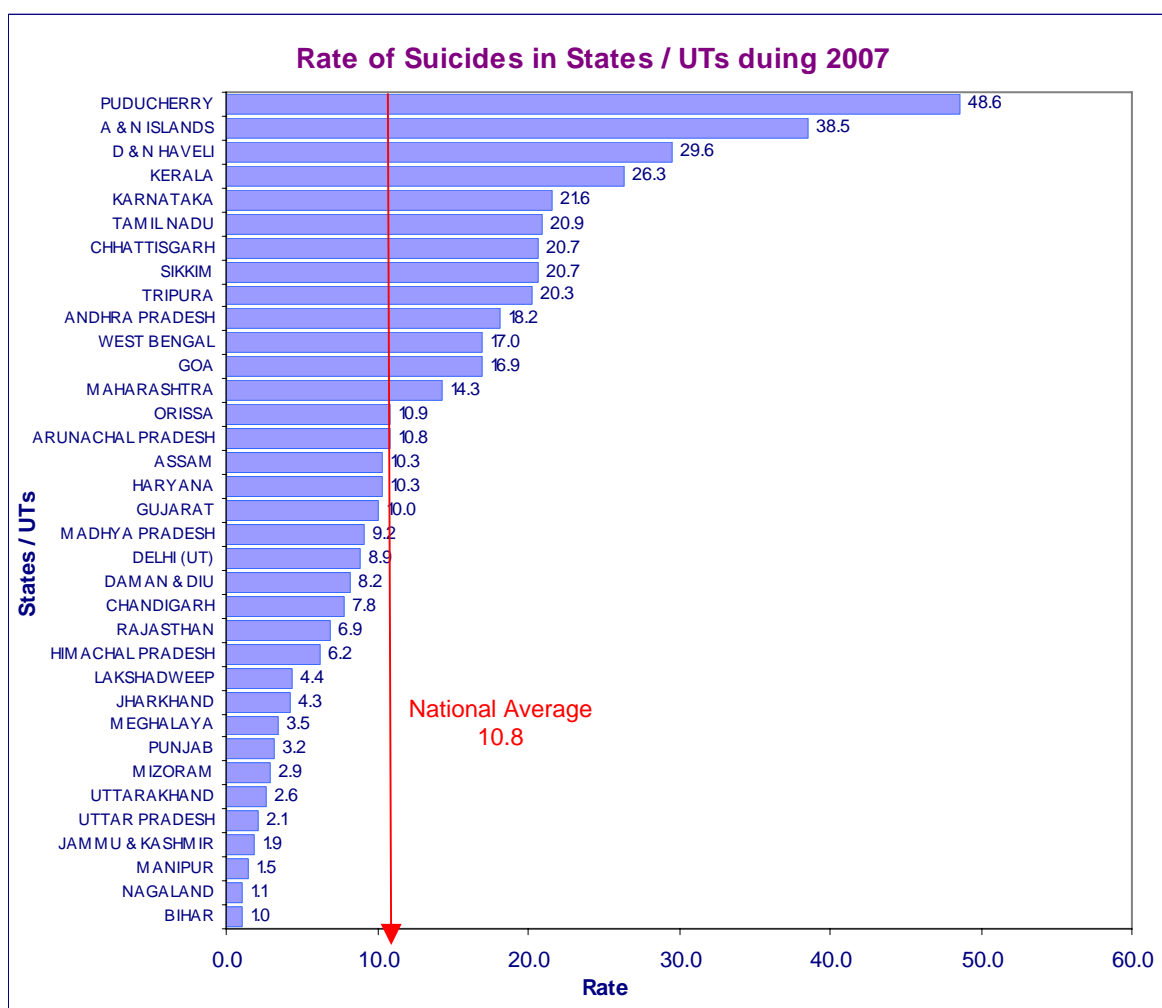


Table – 2 (C)
State/UT/City wise Distribution of Family Suicides during 2007

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	34	34	33	8	8	83
2	ARUNACHAL PRADESH	0	0	0	0	0	0
3	ASSAM	0	0	0	0	0	0
4	BIHAR	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
5	CHHATTISGARH	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
6	GOA	1	1	1	0	1	3
7	GUJARAT	5	5	6	4	2	17
8	HARYANA	1	0	1	1	1	3
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	39	34	42	10	13	99
14	MADHYA PRADESH	12	7	15	9	8	39
15	MAHARASHTRA	8	5	12	0	3	20
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	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
22	RAJASTHAN	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
23	SIKKIM	0	0	0	0	0	0
24	TAMIL NADU	0	0	0	0	0	0
25	TRIPURA	0	0	0	0	0	0
26	UTTAR PRADESH	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
27	UTTARAKHAND	0	0	0	0	0	0
28	WEST BENGAL	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
	TOTAL (STATES)	100	86	110	32	36	264
UNION TERRITORIES:							
29	A & N ISLANDS	0	0	0	0	0	0
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	PUDUCHERRY	0	0	0	0	0	0
	TOTAL(UTs)	0	0	0	0	0	0
	TOTAL (ALL INDIA)	100	86	110	32	36	264

Table – 2 (C) (Concluded)
State/UT/City wise Distribution of Family Suicides during 2007

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	1	1	1	0	0	2
38	ALLAHABAD	0	0	0	0	0	0
39	AMRITSAR	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
40	ASANSOL	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
41	BENGALURU	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
42	BHOPAL	2	2	2	2	2	8
43	CHENNAI	0	0	0	0	0	0
44	COIMBATORE	0	0	0	0	0	0
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	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
51	JAIPUR	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
52	JAMSHEDPUR	0	0	0	0	0	0
53	KANPUR	0	0	0	0	0	0
54	KOCHI	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
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	0	0	0	0	0	0
60	MUMBAI	1	1	1	0	0	2
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	1	3	2	0	0	5
66	SURAT	2	1	2	2	1	6
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)	8	9	9	4	3	25

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

* Below 18 years of age.

Table – 2 (D)

States/UTs with Higher Suicide Rate during 2005 to 2007

		Year			
2005		2006		2007	
Puducherry	52.1	Puducherry	50.2	Puducherry	48.6
A & N Islands	35.8	A & N Islands	33.6	A & N Islands	38.5
D & N Haveli	28.3	Kerala	26.8	D & N Haveli	29.6
Kerala	27.7	Sikkim	25.0	Kerala	26.3
Chhattishgarh	21.6	Tripura	22.3	Karnataka	21.6
National Rate	(10.3)	National Rate	(10.5)	National Rate	(10.8)

Puducherry, 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 Puducherry and A & N Islands have recorded more than 4 and 3 times of the national average respectively.

Causes of Suicides

'Family Problems' and 'Illness', accounting for 23.8% and 22.3% respectively, were the major causes of suicides among the specified

causes. 'Love Affairs' (2.8%), 'Bankruptcy' (2.7%) and 'Dowry Dispute' (2.6%) were the other causes driving people towards suicides.

Suicides due to 'Illness', 'Drug Abuse/Addiction', 'Poverty' and 'Professional/Career Problem' have shown an increasing trend during last 3 years. Suicides due to 'Fall in Social Reputation' have shown a declining trend during last 3 years whereas suicides due to all the other specified reasons have shown a mixed trend during this period. [Table – 2(E)]

Figure – 2.5

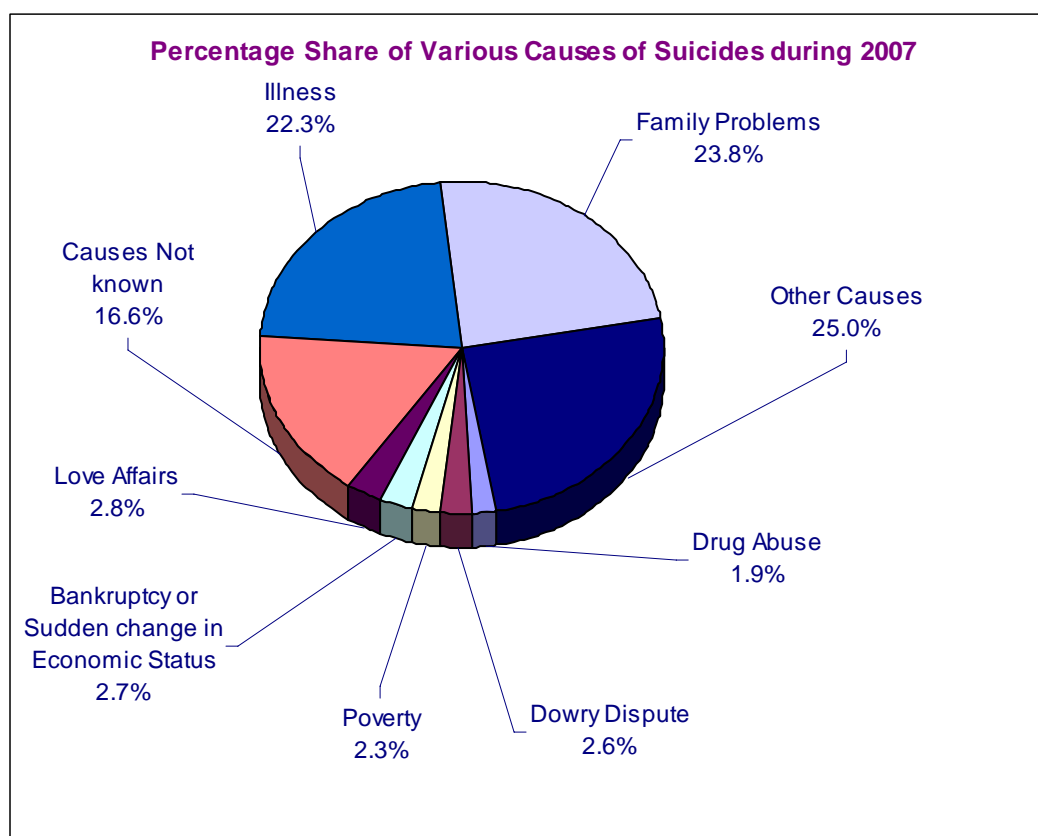


Table - 2 (E)
Suicides and their Share by Causes during 2005 - 2007 (All India)

Sl. No.	Cause	2005		2006		2007		% Variation in 2007 Over 2006
		Suicides	% Share	Suicides	% Share	Suicides	% Share	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
1	Bankruptcy or Sudden change in Economic Status	3095	2.7	3320	2.8	3312	2.7	-0.2
2	Suspected/Illicit Relation	1220	1.1	1134	1.0	1299	1.1	14.6
3	Cancellation/Non-Settlement of Marriage	957	0.8	865	0.7	984	0.8	13.8
4	Not having Children(Barrenness/Impotency)	775	0.7	642	0.5	801	0.7	24.8
5	Illness	25061	22.0	26619	22.5	27332	22.3	2.7
	(i) AIDS/STD	1099	1.0	793	0.7	952	0.8	20.1
	(ii) Cancer	748	0.7	747	0.6	794	0.6	6.3
	(iii) Paralysis	790	0.7	537	0.5	496	0.4	-7.6
	(iv) Insanity/Mental Illness	7604	6.7	8045	6.8	8638	7.0	7.4
	(v) Other Prolonged Illness	14820	13.0	16497	14.0	16452	13.4	-0.3
6	Death of Dear Person	820	0.7	879	0.7	719	0.6	-18.2
7	Dowry Dispute	2351	2.1	2336	2.0	3148	2.6	34.8
8	Divorce	317	0.3	394	0.3	335	0.3	-15.0
9	Drug Abuse/Addiction	2032	1.8	2188	1.9	2332	1.9	6.6
10	Failure in Examination	2283	2.0	2378	2.0	1976	1.6	-16.9
11	Fall in Social Reputation	1572	1.4	1345	1.1	1105	0.9	-17.8
12	Family Problems	25441	22.3	30771	26.1	29238	23.8	-5.0
13	Ideological Causes/Hero Worshipping	215	0.2	289	0.2	261	0.2	-9.7
14	Illegitimate Pregnancy	171	0.2	267	0.2	158	0.1	-40.8
15	Love Affairs	3496	3.1	4064	3.4	3383	2.8	-16.8
16	Physical Abuse (Rape, Incest etc.)	202	0.2	315	0.3	305	0.2	-3.2
17	Poverty	2548	2.2	2643	2.2	2809	2.3	6.3
18	Professional/Career Problem	735	0.6	1091	0.9	1273	1.0	16.7
19	Property Dispute	1559	1.4	2244	1.9	1411	1.2	-37.1
20	Unemployment	2172	1.9	1891	1.6	2394	2.0	26.6
21	Causes Not known	17445	15.3	17159	14.5	20409	16.6	18.9
22	Other Causes	19447	17.1	15278	12.9	17653	14.4	15.5
Total		113914	100.0	118112	100.0	122637	100.0	3.8

The number of suicides due to 'Dowry Dispute' showed a sharp increase of 34.8% as compared to previous year, followed by 'Unemployment' (26.6%), 'Not having children' (24.8%), 'Professional/Career Problem' (16.7%), 'Suspected/Illicit relation' (14.6%), 'Cancellation/Non-settlement of marriage' (13.8%). State, UT and City-wise details on various causes of suicides are presented in

(28.4%), Orissa (27.4%), Tripura (25.5%) and Uttarakhand (24.2%).

8.4% suicides in Kerala were due to 'Bankruptcy or Sudden change in Economic Status'. 22.9% in Punjab, 17.0% in Goa and 16.7% suicides in A & N Island were due to 'Insanity/Mental Illness'. Similarly, 9.6% in Uttar Pradesh and 9.3% suicides in Madhya Pradesh

Table – 2 (F)
States & UTs reporting higher share of Suicides due to Illness and Family Problems during 2007

Illness				Family Problems			
All India% Share							
22.3%				23.8%			
Sl. No.	State/UT	Suicides	% age Share	Sl. No.	State/UT	Suicides	% age Share
1	Kerala	2823	31.5	1	Puducherry	260	50.3
2	A & N Islands	49	31.4	2	Chandigarh	39	47.6
3	Andhra Pradesh	4629	31.1	3	Kerala	3787	42.3
4	Punjab	261	30.8	4	D & N Haveli	32	42.1
5	Maharashtra	4431	29.2	5	Meghalaya	30	34.5
6	Goa	77	28.5	6	Maharashtra	5207	34.3
7	Gujarat	1551	27.8	7	Tamil Nadu	4331	31.4
8	Karnataka	3330	27.1	8	Himachal Pradesh	114	28.4
9	Puducherry	134	25.9	9	Orissa	1181	27.4
10	Tamil Nadu	3209	23.2	10	Tripura	180	25.5
				11	Uttarakhand	60	24.2

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)**. Ten States/UTs have reported higher percentage share than the All India average in suicides with causes such as 'Illness'.

Similarly, Eleven 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 Puducherry (50.3%), were Chandigarh (47.6), Kerala (42.3%), D & N Haveli (42.1%), Meghalaya (34.5%), Maharashtra (34.3%) Tamil Nadu (31.4%), Himachal Pradesh

were due to 'Dowry Dispute'. 13.2% suicides in Arunachal Pradesh and 12.2% suicides in Chandigarh were due to 'Un-employment'. 8.3% suicides in Nagaland and 7.1% suicides in Maharashtra were due to 'Drug abuse/addiction'. 25.0% suicides in Mizoram were due to 'Fall in social reputation'. 14.0% suicides in Assam were due to 'Love Affairs'.

Suicide Victims by Sex and Age Group

Distribution of suicides by causes and sex during 2007 is presented in **Table–2(G)**. The overall male : female ratio of suicide victims for the year 2007 was 65:35, 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' (98.8%), 'Illegitimate Pregnancy' (91.1%), 'Not having Children' (70.9%), 'Divorce' (61.2%), 'Physical Abuse' (60.3%), 'Cancellation/Non-settlement of marriage' (58.0%), and 'Suspected/Illicit Relation' (54.9%). It is observed that social and economic causes have led most of the males to commit suicide 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 35.2% suicide victims were youths in the age group of 15-29 years and 34.1% were middle aged persons in the age group 30-44 years. Among the specified causes, 'Failure in Examination' (358), 'Family Problems' (307) and 'Illness' (293) were the main cause of suicides among children (2,479). 'Family Problems' have driven 10,023 youths (15-29 years), 10,805 lower middle aged people (30-44 years) and 6,237 upper middle aged persons (45-59 years) to commit suicide.

Nearly 40.9% (3,926 out of 9,595) of suicides committed by Senior citizens (above 60 years & above) were due to 'Illness'. Senior citizens have accounted for 7.8% 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 16.9% (419 out of 2,479) of children (upto 14 years) who committed suicides belonged to West Bengal. 15.6% (1,494 out of 9,595) senior citizens (above 60 years) belonged to Kerala.

49.6% (116 out of 234) victims in Jammu & Kashmir were young (15-29 years) as compared to the national average of 35.2%. 59.0% of the victims (23 out of 39) in Manipur and 50.0% of the victims (12 out of 24) in Nagaland were middle aged (30-44 years) against the national average of 34.1%.

Figure – 2.6

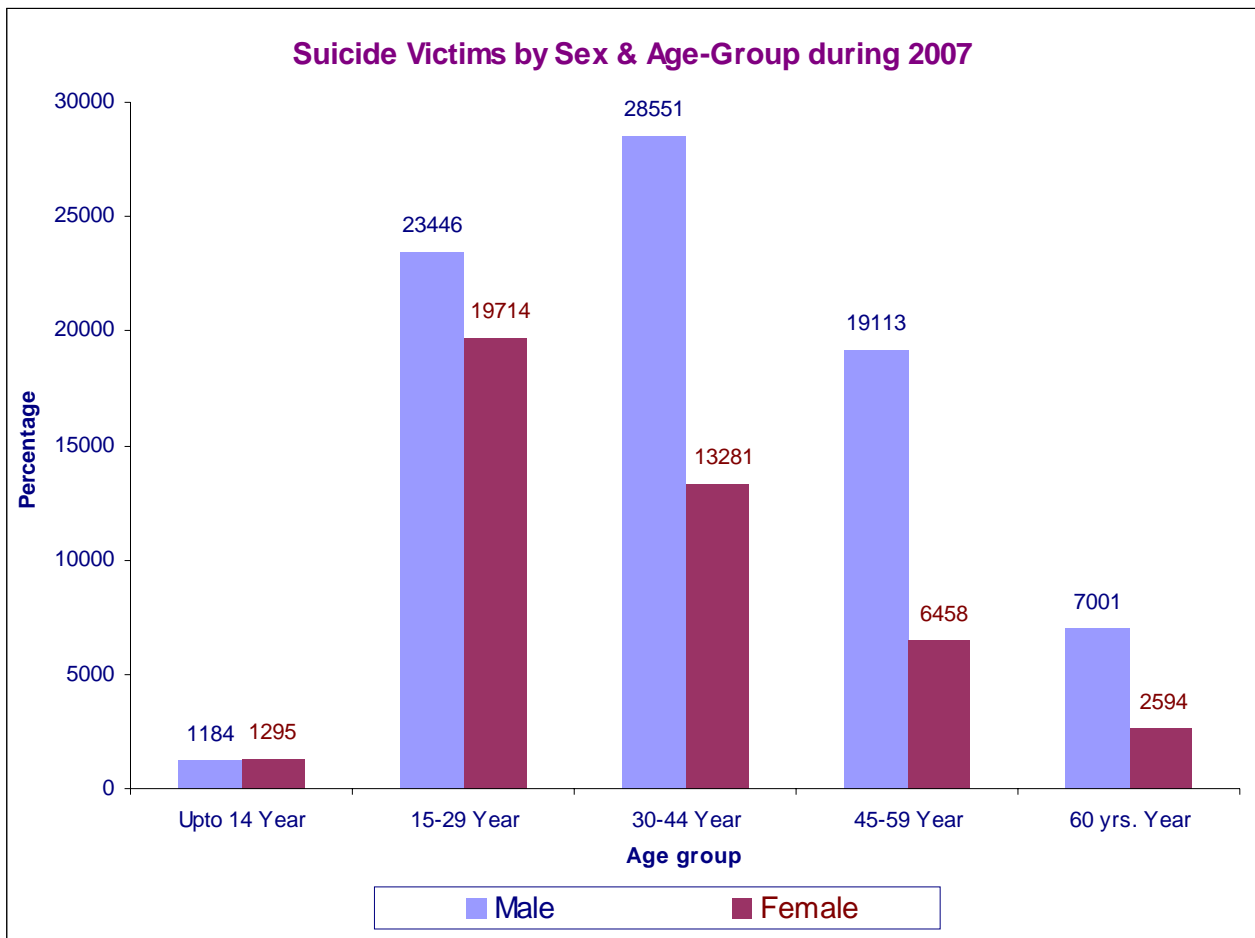


Table – 2 (G)
Distribution of Suicides by Causes and Sex
(Age-Group-wise) during 2006

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	2	1	3	439	92	531	1176	114	1290
2	Suspected/Illicit Relation	11	10	21	246	381	627	242	291	533
3	Cancellation/Non-Settlement of Marriage	0	3	3	251	435	686	151	124	275
4	Barrenness/Impotency (Not having Children)	0	0	0	42	244	286	141	248	389
5	Illness	113	180	293	4032	3193	7225	5772	2994	8766
	(i) AIDS/STD	3	7	10	142	94	236	253	130	383
	(ii) Cancer	1	0	1	57	19	76	126	79	205
	(iii) Paralysis	0	1	1	27	25	52	78	50	128
	(iv) Insanity/Mental Illness	37	59	96	1445	1014	2459	2014	1028	3042
	(v) Other Prolonged Illness	72	113	185	2361	2041	4402	3301	1707	5008
6	Death of Dear Person	4	10	14	93	145	238	132	115	247
7	Dowry Dispute	0	13	13	22	2242	2264	14	812	826
8	Divorce	0	0	0	23	88	111	75	95	170
9	Drug Abuse/Addiction	9	1	10	523	32	555	1009	28	1037
10	Failure in Examination	179	179	358	848	684	1532	53	19	72
11	Social Disrepute	5	1	6	212	194	406	296	152	448
12	Family Problems	145	162	307	5152	4871	10023	7173	3632	10805
13	Ideological Causes/Hero Worshipping	0	2	2	45	60	105	75	27	102
14	Illegitimate Pregnancy	0	3	3	6	107	113	2	33	35
15	Love Affairs	17	75	92	1233	1289	2522	444	261	705
16	Physical Abuse (Rape, Incest etc.)	0	3	3	47	115	162	39	44	83
17	Poverty	11	27	38	434	209	643	877	254	1131
18	Professional/Career Problem	1	4	5	285	58	343	517	55	572
19	Property Dispute	2	2	4	280	106	386	410	120	530
20	Unemployment	2	9	11	993	179	1172	834	81	915
21	Causes Not Known	314	300	614	4495	2745	7240	4748	2058	6806
22	Other Causes	369	310	679	3745	2245	5990	4371	1724	6095
	Total	1184	1295	2479	23446	19714	43160	28551	13281	41832

-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	1051	84	1135	342	11	353	3010	302	3312
2	Suspected/Illicit Relation	81	30	111	6	1	7	586	713	1299
3	Cancellation/Non-Settlement of Marriage	11	9	20	0	0	0	413	571	984
4	Barrenness/Impotency (Not having Children)	41	66	107	9	10	19	233	568	801
5	Illness	5068	2054	7122	2718	1208	3926	17703	9629	27332
	(i) AIDS/STD	125	79	204	95	24	119	618	334	952
	(ii) Cancer	200	93	293	163	56	219	547	247	794
	(iii) Paralysis	118	51	169	104	42	146	327	169	496
	(iv) Insanity/Mental Illness	1575	634	2209	540	292	832	5611	3027	8638
	(v) Other Prolonged Illness	3050	1197	4247	1816	794	2610	10600	5852	16452
6	Death of Dear Person	94	59	153	41	26	67	364	355	719
7	Dowry Dispute	0	43	43	2	0	2	38	3110	3148
8	Divorce	30	22	52	2	0	2	130	205	335
9	Drug Abuse/Addiction	570	15	585	139	6	145	2250	82	2332
10	Failure in Examination	4	8	12	2	0	2	1086	890	1976
11	Social Disrepute	138	49	187	44	14	58	695	410	1105
12	Family Problems	4498	1739	6237	1368	498	1866	18336	10902	29238
13	Ideological Causes/Hero Worshipping	32	10	42	9	1	10	161	100	261
14	Illegitimate Pregnancy	5	1	6	1	0	1	14	144	158
15	Love Affairs	42	12	54	9	1	10	1745	1638	3383
16	Physical Abuse (Rape Incest etc.)	32	19	51	3	3	6	121	184	305
17	Poverty	621	139	760	204	33	237	2147	662	2809
18	Professional/Career Problem	261	35	296	53	4	57	1117	156	1273
19	Property Dispute	297	90	387	78	26	104	1067	344	1411
20	Unemployment	262	9	271	24	1	25	2115	279	2394
21	Causes Not Known	3266	1055	4321	1056	372	1428	13879	6530	20409
22	Other Causes	2709	910	3619	891	379	1270	12085	5568	17653
Total		19113	6458	25571	7001	2594	9595	79295	43342	122637

Professional Status of Suicide Victims

Information regarding professional status of suicide victims is presented in **Table – 2.6**. Housewives (24,162) accounted for 55.7% of the total female victims which are nearly 19.7% of total victims committing suicides. Government servants were merely 1.5% of the total suicide victims.

Private and Public Sector personnel have accounted for 8.2% and 2.2% of the total suicide victims respectively, whereas students and un-employed victims accounted for 5.1% and 6.9% respectively. Self employed category accounted for 41.9% of victims. It comprised of 13.6% engaged in Farming/Agriculture activities, 5.9% engaged in Business and 2.6% Professionals.

State/UT-wise and Profession wise analysis [**Table – 2.11**] of suicide victims reveals that Housewives and Government servants have accounted for 66.7% and 33.3% of suicide victims in Lakshadweep. Daman & Diu has reported 33.3% victims who were in private employment. 19.5% of victims in Meghalaya were Students. 30.0% of victims in Goa were Unemployed, while 38.1% victims in Puducherry were employed in Farming/Agricultural activities.

Age-wise profile of professional status of victims during the year 2007 shows that nearly 45.2% of 'Housewives', 43.8% 'Unemployed' and 75.8% of Students who had committed suicides during 2007 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 71.5% of the suicide victims were married while 20.8% were unmarried. Divorcees and Separated have accounted for about 3.7% of the total suicide victims. The proportion of Widow & Widower victims was around 4.1%.

The State/UT-wise distribution of suicide victims by Marital Status is presented in **Table–2.12**. It was observed that 53.3% of victims in Daman & Diu, 50.6% victims in Meghalaya, 45.8% victims in Nagaland and 43.6% victims in A & N Islands were unmarried against 20.8% at National level. 100% of victims in Lakshadweep, 85.5% victims in D & N Haveli and 78.1% victims in Kerala on the contrary were married against the National average of 71.5%.

Educational Status of Suicide Victims

The sex-wise and education-wise break-up of suicide victims is presented in **Table–2.8**. The maximum number of suicide victims were educated up to Primary level (25.2%). Illiterate and Middle educated persons accounted for 21.8% suicide victims and 24.2% respectively. Only 2.2% suicide victims were graduates and post-graduates. 60.5% suicide victims in D & N Haveli and 46.7% suicide victims in Sikkim were illiterate. 36.5% suicide victims in Gujarat and 32.8% suicide victims in West Bengal had education upto primary level. 63.6% victims in Puducherry and 58.3% victims in Nagaland had middle level education. [**Table – 2.13**]

Figure – 2.7

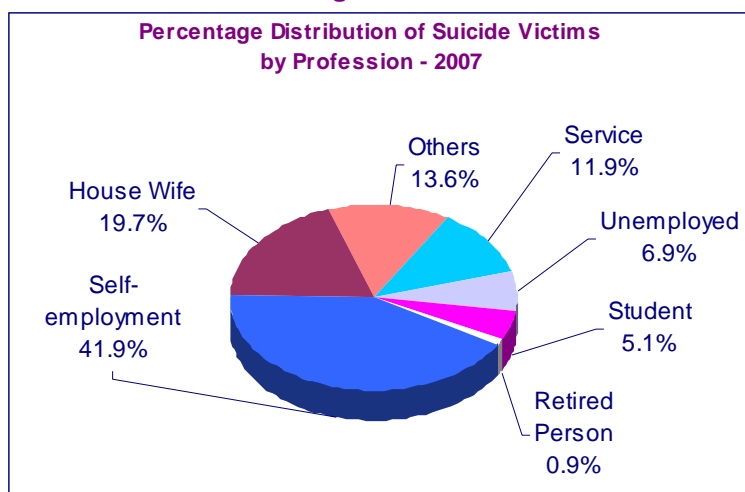


Figure – 2.8

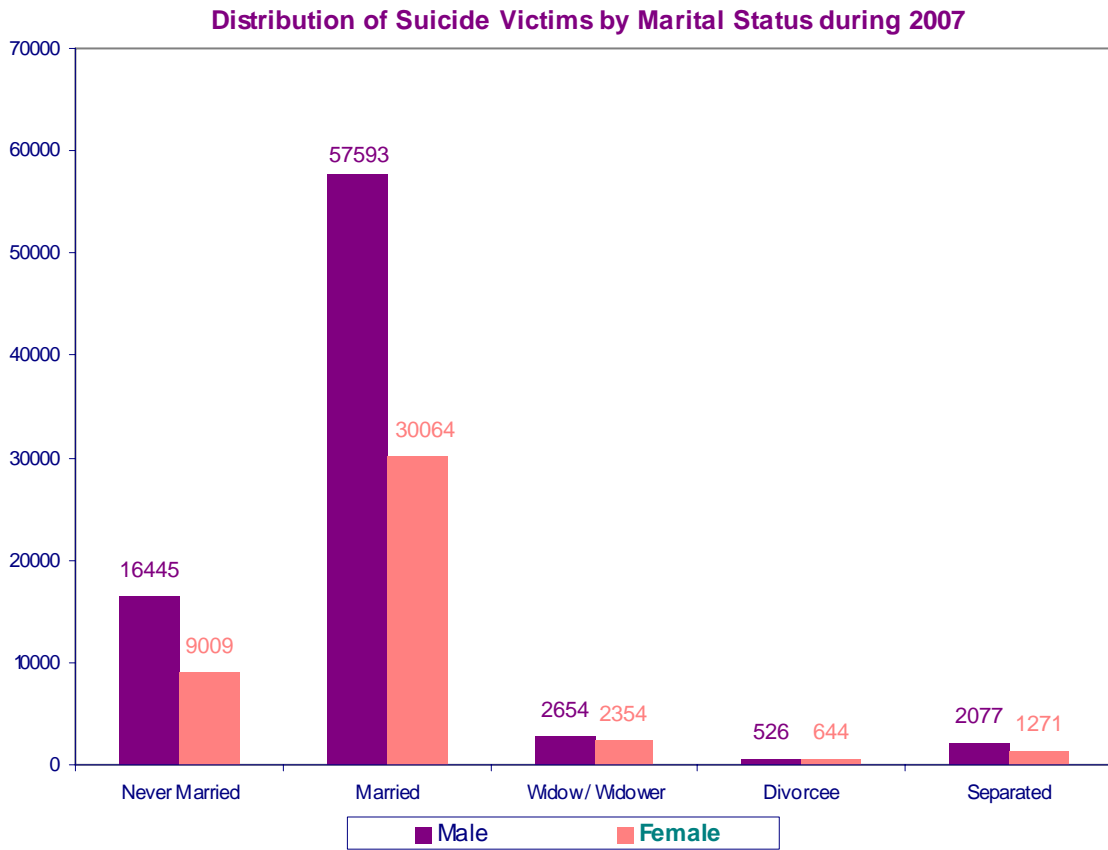


Figure – 2.9

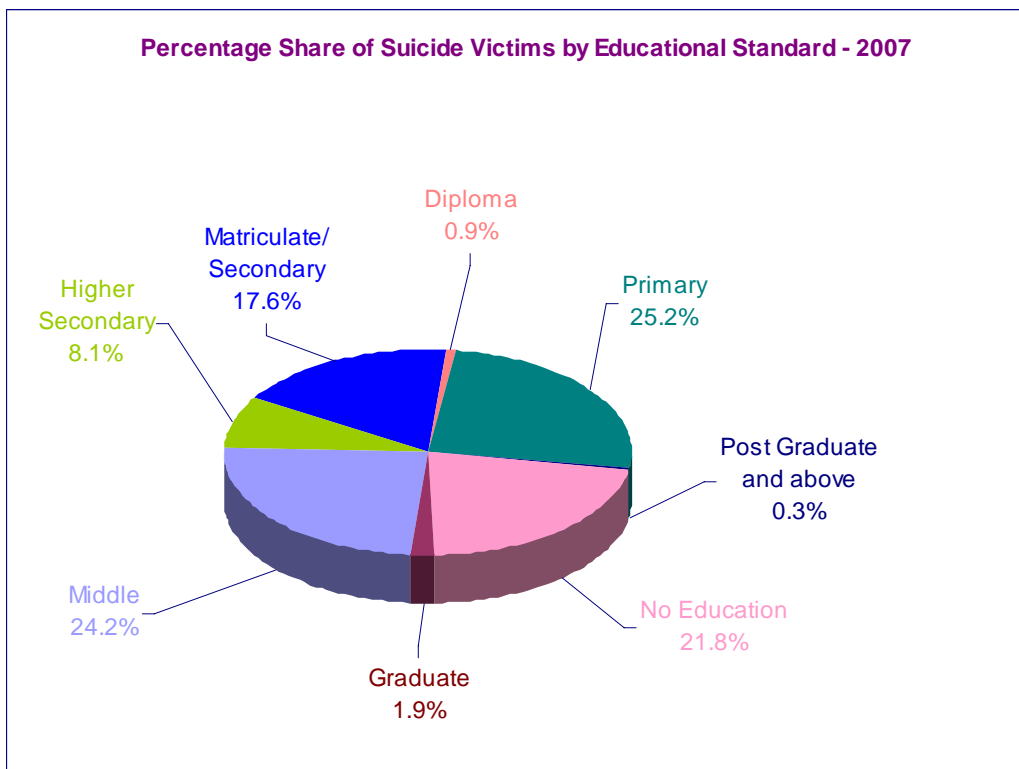


Table – 2 (H)
Percentage of Suicide Victims by Educational Level — 2005-2007

Sl.No.	Educational Level	Percentage Share		
		2005	2006	2007
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
1	No Education	23.0	21.3	21.8
2	Primary	25.8	24.1	25.2
3	Middle	24.0	24.5	24.2
4	Matriculate/Secondary	16.8	18.2	17.6
5	Higher Secondary	7.4	8.8	8.1
6	Diploma	0.9	0.9	0.9
7	Graduate	1.8	1.9	1.9
8	Post-Graduate & above	0.4	0.3	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,

number of victims who terminated their lives by hanging have been reported from Mizoram (89.3%), A & N Islands (82.7%), Sikkim (76.2%) and Chandigarh (74.4). Share of suicides by 'Drowning' has decreased from 7.3% to 6.8% in

Table – 2 (I)
Percentage share of the Means adopted in Committing Suicides during 2005-2007

Sl. No.	Means Adopted	% Share		
		2005	2006	2007
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
1	Alcoholism	0.9	1.1	1.1
2	Drowning	6.8	7.3	6.8
3	Fire/self immolation	7.9	8.7	8.5
4	Fire arms	0.7	0.3	0.6
5	Hanging	32.1	32.8	31.7
6	Poisoning	36.6	35.5	34.8
	i) Consumption of insecticides	19.6	19.4	19.7
	ii) Other poisons	16.8	15.9	15.1
7	Self infliction of injury	0.2	0.2	0.2
8	Jumping from	0.9	1.2	1.0
	i) Buildings	0.5	0.4	0.7
	ii) Other sites	0.4	0.7	0.3
9	Jumping off from moving vehicles/trains	0.7	0.8	0.5
10	Machine	0.1	0.1	0.1
11	Over dose of sleeping pills	0.7	0.7	0.7
12	Self electrocution	0.9	0.5	0.6
13	Coming under running vehicles/train	2.7	3.2	3.6
14	Other means	9.1	8.0	9.7
Total		100.0	100.0	100.0

etc. to more painful means such as self inflicted injuries, hanging, shooting, etc. Suicide by Consuming Poison (35.0%), Hanging (31.7%), Self Immolation (8.5%) and Drowning (6.8%) were the prominent means of committing suicides (Table-2.9) as in past. Substantial

2007 while 'Poisoning' came down from 35.5% to 34.8% and 'Self Immolation' has decreased from 8.7% to 8.5% in 2007. 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 — 2007

Consumption of Poison				By Hanging			
All-India Share (34.8%)				All-India Share (31.7%)			
Sl. No.	States/UTs	Cases	% share	Sl. No.	States/UTs	Cases	% share
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
1	Himachal Pradesh	220	54.7	1	Mizoram	25	89.3
2	Andhra Pradesh	7375	49.5	2	A & N Islands	129	82.7
3	Orissa	1802	41.8	3	Sikkim	93	76.2
4	Gujarat	2200	39.4	4	Chandigarh	61	74.4
5	West Bengal	5826	39.2	5	Meghalaya	63	72.4
6	Maharashtra	5587	36.8	6	D & N Haveli	55	72.4
7	Kerala	3190	35.6	7	Puducherry	348	67.3
8	Tripura	250	35.5	8	Arunachal Pradesh	84	65.1
				9	Nagaland	15	62.5
				10	Delhi (UT)	915	61.8
				11	Tripura	383	54.3
				12	Goa	132	48.9
				13	Manipur	19	48.7
				14	Kerala	4316	48.2
				15	Assam	1411	46.1
				16	Daman & Diu	6	40.0
				17	Madhya Pradesh	2422	38.3
				18	Chhattisgarh	1751	36.2
				19	Maharashtra	5317	35.0
				20	West Bengal	5169	34.8
				21	Uttar Pradesh	1327	33.8
				22	Lakshadweep	1	33.3
				23	Uttarakhand	80	32.3

Table – 2 (K)
Distribution of Age-group wise & Sex wise Suicides Classified according to Means Adopted during 2007

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	0	0	0	194	49	243	528	36	564
2	Drowning	199	213	412	1430	1190	2620	1880	905	2785
3	Fire/Self Immolation	52	155	207	1009	3514	4523	1378	2125	3503
4	Fire-Arms	2	5	7	125	70	195	216	60	276
5	Hanging	284	266	550	8354	6062	14416	9646	3911	13557
6	Poisoning	300	400	700	8415	6649	15064	9988	4494	14482
	(i) Consumption of Insecticides	167	238	405	4665	3961	8626	5666	2322	7988
	(ii) Consumption of other Poison	132	160	292	3689	2659	6348	4246	2141	6387
7	Self Infliction of injury	1	2	3	61	29	90	76	31	107
8	Jumping	21	24	45	226	141	367	385	97	482
	(i) From Building	14	16	30	131	88	219	306	59	365
	(ii) From Other sites	7	8	15	95	53	148	79	38	117
9	Jumping off Moving Vehicles/Trains	5	5	10	142	54	196	212	59	271
10	By Machine	0	0	0	71	23	94	35	6	41
11	Overdose of sleeping pills	15	4	19	113	158	271	192	111	303
12	Self-electrocution	32	4	36	224	38	262	226	51	277
13	Coming under running vehicles/trains	27	27	54	1001	326	1327	1362	273	1635
14	Other means	247	192	439	2142	1440	3582	2503	1153	3656
Total		1184	1295	2479	23446	19714	43160	28551	13281	41832
Percentage		1.0	1.1	2.0	19.1	16.1	35.2	23.3	10.8	34.1

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	432	28	460	108	11	119	1262	124	1386	91.1
2	Drowning	1208	525	1733	485	303	788	5202	3136	8338	62.4
3	Fire/Self Immolation	777	756	1533	236	389	625	3452	6939	10391	33.2
4	Fire-Arms	147	26	173	58	10	68	548	171	719	76.2
5	Hanging	6211	1616	7827	2014	497	2511	26509	12352	38861	68.2
6	Poisoning	6822	2358	9180	2650	874	3524	28175	14775	42950	65.6
	(i) Consumption of insecticides	3753	1234	4987	1625	494	2119	15876	8249	24125	65.8
	(ii) Consumption of other Poison	3035	1116	4151	999	371	1370	12101	6447	18548	65.2
7	Self Infliction of injury	34	8	42	26	9	35	198	79	277	71.5
8	Jumping	214	82	296	61	14	75	907	358	1265	71.7
	(i) From Building	139	66	205	27	9	36	617	238	855	72.2
	(ii) From Other sites	75	16	91	34	5	39	290	120	410	70.7
9	Jumping off Moving Vehicles/Trains	93	26	119	50	12	62	502	156	658	76.3
10	By Machine	18	5	23	5	0	5	129	34	163	79.1
11	Overdose of sleeping pills	104	45	149	50	27	77	474	345	819	57.9
12	Self electrocution	102	23	125	28	12	40	612	128	740	82.7
13	Coming under running vehicles/trains	862	141	1003	327	60	387	3579	827	4406	81.2
14	Other means	2123	827	2950	929	385	1314	7944	3997	11941	66.5
Total		19113	6458	25571	7001	2594	9595	79295	43342	122637	64.7
Percentage		15.6	5.3	20.9	5.7	2.1	7.8	64.7	35.3	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 (66.8%).

Suicides in Cities

The number of suicides in 35 mega cities have reported a mixed trend during the year 2003 to 2007. The rate of suicides has been hovering around 11 during 2003, 2004, 2005 and 12 in 2006 while it is around 13 in 2007.

Table – 2 (L)

Year	Suicides in Cities	Cities share to All India	Rate in Cities	% Variation over previous year (incidence)
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
2007	14336	11.7	13.3	3.6

21.1% suicides in Goa were committed by 'Drowning'. 'Self Immolation' was main means of suicides in Lakshadweep accounting for 66.7% of total suicides. 28.2% suicides were committed by Fire-Arms in Manipur. 89.3% suicides were committed by Hanging in Mizoram.

The four Metropolitan Cities — Bengaluru (2,429), Chennai (2,313), Delhi (1,246) and Mumbai (1,141) have reported higher number of Suicides. These four cities together have reported almost 50% of the total suicides reported from 35 mega cities. Patna city reported high increase 162.2% (from 37 cases in 2006 to 97 cases in 2007). Asansol city has reported a decline of 36.7% (324 cases in 2006 to 205 cases in 2007) over 2006.

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 2007)		Share in total suicides reported in	
		Cities	All-India	Cities	All-India
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
1.	Family Problems	3275	29238	22.8	23.8
2.	Total Illness	2917	27332	20.3	22.3
3.	Insanity/Mental Illness*	871	8638	6.1	7.0
4.	Love Affairs	409	3383	2.9	2.8
5.	Bankruptcy or Sudden Change in Economic Status	225	3312	1.6	2.7
6.	Dowry Dispute	277	3148	1.9	2.6
7.	Poverty	362	2809	2.5	2.3
8.	Unemployment	478	2394	3.3	2.0
9.	Drug Abuse/Addiction	306	2332	2.1	1.9
10.	Failure in Examination	339	1976	2.4	1.6
Total		8588	75924	59.8	61.9

* included in total illness

The suicide rate in cities (13.3) was higher as compared to All-India suicide rate (10.8). Bengaluru has reported the highest rate of suicides (42.7) followed by Chennai city (36.0). Indore city and Kolkata had the lowest rate at 2.0 and 1.5 respectively among 35 cities.

Nearly 3.3% of suicides were committed due to 'Unemployment' as against 2.0% of such suicides at National level as per causal analysis of suicides in cities. Similarly, the share of suicides due to 'Drug Abuse/ Addiction', 'Failure in Examination', 'Death of a Dear Person', 'Love Affairs', 'Poverty' was comparatively higher than their respective National averages.

'Family Problems' claimed half the lives due to suicides in Allahabad and were the major cause of suicides in Indore (43.8%), Amritsar (42.3%), Surat (41.6%), Coimbatore (37.0%), Kochi (36.4%), Nagpur (32.7%), Vijayawada (30.9%), Mumbai (30.6%) and Ludhiana (29.0%). 'Failure in Examination' (19.3%), 'Suspected/Illicit Relations' (16.3%), 'Drug Abuse/ Addiction' (10.4%) and 'Bankruptcy/ Sudden Change in Economic Status' (9.6%) were the main factors driving people towards suicide in Jamshedpur city. 'Dowry Dispute' (22.4%), 'Poverty' (15.5%) and 'Suspected/Illicit Relations' (13.8%) were main causes of suicides in Varanasi. AIDS/STD was the most important reason of suicide in Meerut city. Insanity accounted for more than half (53.8%) and more than a quarter (25.8%) suicides in Amritsar and Ludhiana respectively. Other prolonged illnesses accounted for 27.2% and 27.0% suicides in Madurai and Vijayawada respectively. 'Death of a Dear Person' drove 8.3% victims in Bhopal city towards suicide. 'Dowry Dispute' took lives of 37.5% of suicide victims in Indore city. 'Drug Abuse/Addiction' accounted for 10.1% and 10.0% suicides in Nagpur and Madurai respectively. 'Failure in Examination' prompted 14.2% suicide victims to take recourse to the extreme step. 'Love Affairs' (16.1%) and 'Property Dispute' (14.1%)

were the major causes of suicides in Asansol city. 'Poverty' accounted for 16.1% suicides in Ludhiana and 'Unemployment' was the reason for 11.1% suicides in Jaipur city. [Table 2.10]

15.5% suicide victims were Government Employees in Meerut while 34.5% were Private Employees in Pune. 22.6% victims in Lucknow were Students. 11.4% suicide victims were engaged in Farming/ agriculture Activity in Bhopal. 21.1% victims were un-employed in Mumbai. Persons engaged in Professional activities have constituted 27.4% of victims in Jamshedpur. 56.3% suicides were committed by house wives in Indore.

'Educational Profile' of suicide victims revealed that around half of victims in Rajkot (54.7%) and more than a third in Surat (39.8%) were educated upto 'Primary level' and 76.9% suicide victims in Amritsar had education upto matriculation level. 37.6% victims in Pune, 35.2% in Coimbatore, 34.4% in Vishakhapatnam, 30.3% in Vijayawada, 30.0% victims in Kochi and Vadodara each were educated upto Middle level. 35.3% victims in Bhopal and 33.2% victims in Hyderabad were uneducated. 33.8% Suicide victims were educated upto Higher Secondary/Intermediate level in Allahabad. 44.1% victims in Kolkata and 22.1% victims in Dhanbad were Graduates. [Table 2.13]

The pattern of suicides reported from 35 cities showed that 'Hanging' (39.3%), 'Poisoning' (19.9%) and 'Self Immolation' (12.2%) were the prominent means adopted by the suicide victims in the cities. 'Hanging' claimed nearly three-fourth (74.7%) of suicide victims in Kochi and Kolkata (72.8%). 68.8% victims consumed insecticides in Indore, 31.2% victims immolated themselves in Rajkot. 18.9% suicides were committed by 'Drowning' in Allahabad and 13.8% suicides were committed by 'Overdose of Alcohol' in Meerut. [Table 2.14]

Incidence and Rate of Suicides-2007

