

## CHAPTER – 2

### SUICIDES IN INDIA

#### Incidence and Rate of Suicides during the Decade (2000-2010)

More than one lakh persons (1,34,599) in the country lost their lives by committing suicide during the year 2010. This indicates an increase of **5.9%** over the previous year's figure (1,27,151). [Table–2.1]

The number of suicides in the country during the decade (2000–2010) has recorded an

increase of 23.9% (from 1,08,593 in 2000 to 1,34,599 in 2009). The increase in incidence of suicides was reported each year during the decade except in 2001. The population has increased by 18.3% during the decade but the rate of suicides in 2010 was 11.4 which is greater than 10.8 recorded in 2000. The rate of suicides has shown a declining trend since 2000 to 2003. An increasing trend is observed during 2006 to 2010. [Table–2.1 and 2(A)]

Table – 2 (A)

#### Incidence of Suicides, Growth of Population and Rate of Suicides During 2006 to 2010

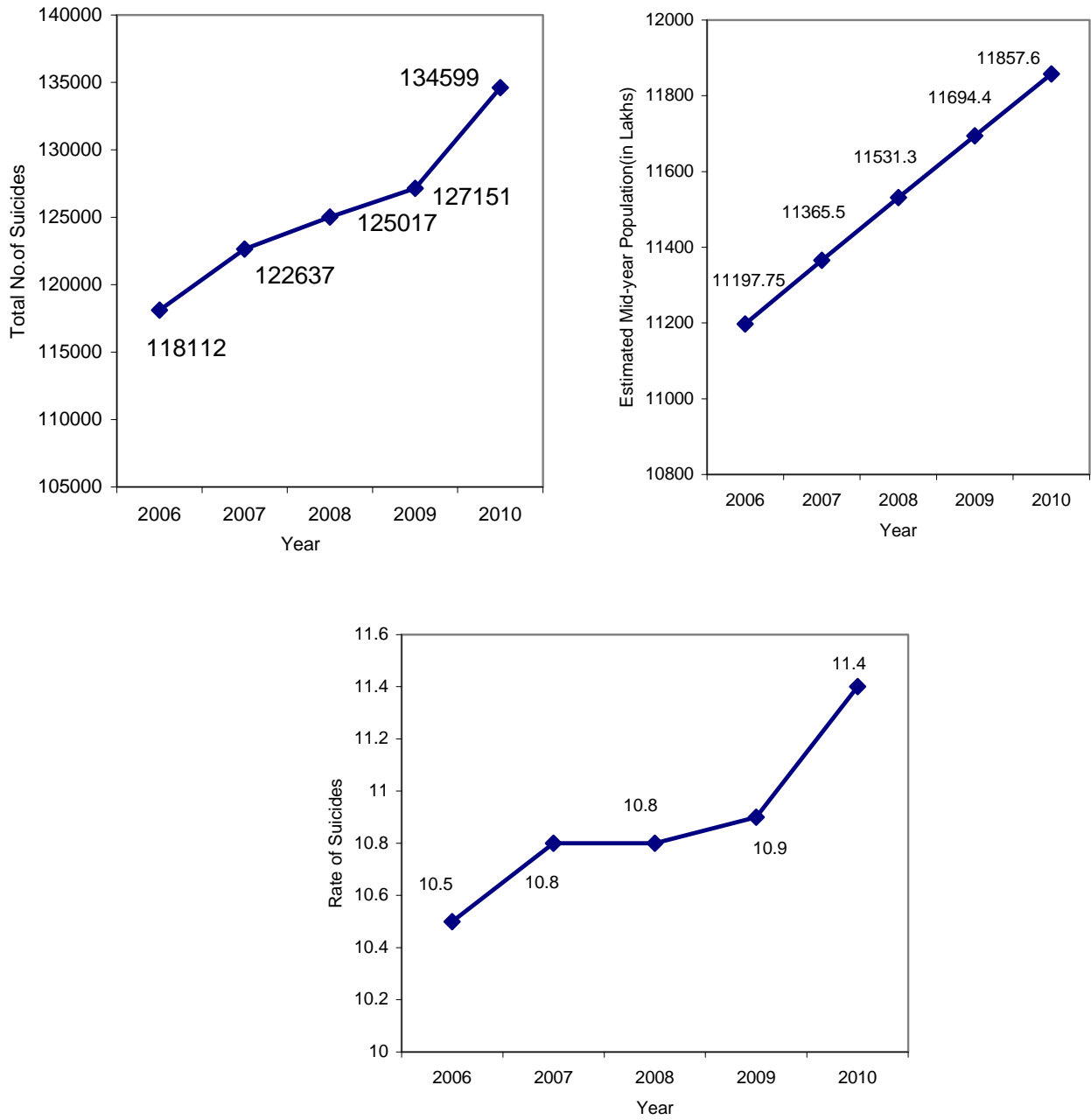
Sl. No.	Year	Total number of Suicides	Estimated Mid-Year Population* (in Lakhs)**	Rate of Suicides (Col.3/Col.4)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
1	2006	118112	11197.75	10.5
2	2007	122637	11365.5	10.8
3	2008	125017	11531.3	10.8
4	2009	127151	11694.4	10.9
5	2010	134599	11857.6	11.4

\* – 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 2006 to 2010



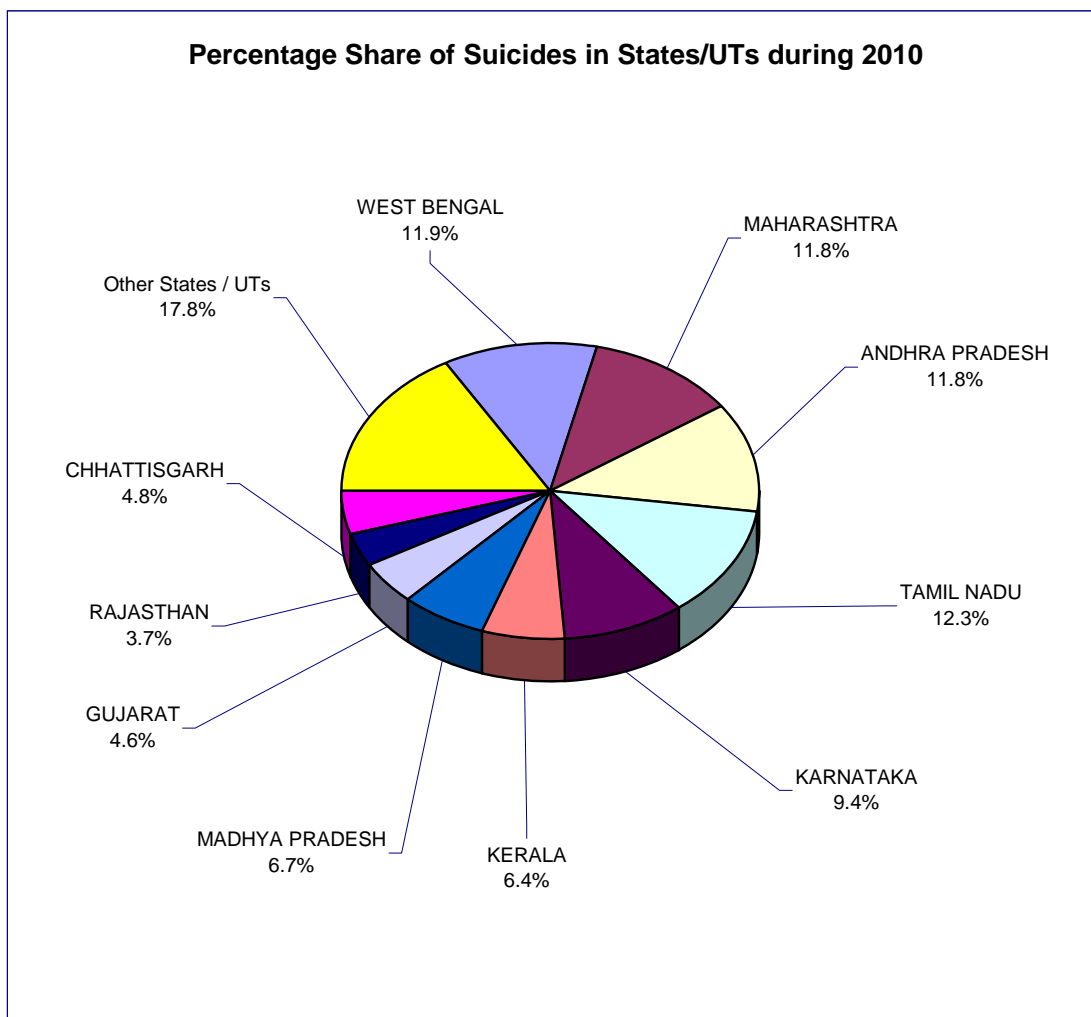
## Incidence and Percentage Share of Suicides in States/UTs

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**. Tamil Nadu has reported the highest number of suicides (16,561) accounting for 12.3% of total suicides followed by West Bengal (16,037), Maharashtra (15,916), Andhra Pradesh (15,901) and Karnataka (12,651) accounting for 11.9%, 11.8%, 11.8% and 9.4% respectively of the total suicides in the country. These 5 States together accounted for 57.2% of the total suicides reported in the country. The remaining 42.8% suicides were reported in the rest of 23 States and 7 UTs. Uttar Pradesh, the most populous state

(16.7% share of population) has reported comparatively lower percentage of suicidal deaths, accounting for only 2.7% of the total suicides reported in the country.

The States which have witnessed significantly higher cases of suicidal deaths during the year 2008 to 2010 are presented in the **Table-2(B)**. These States have accounted for about 10% or more of the total suicides reported in the country during 2008 to 2010. All the five States viz. Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra 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 2008 to 2010**

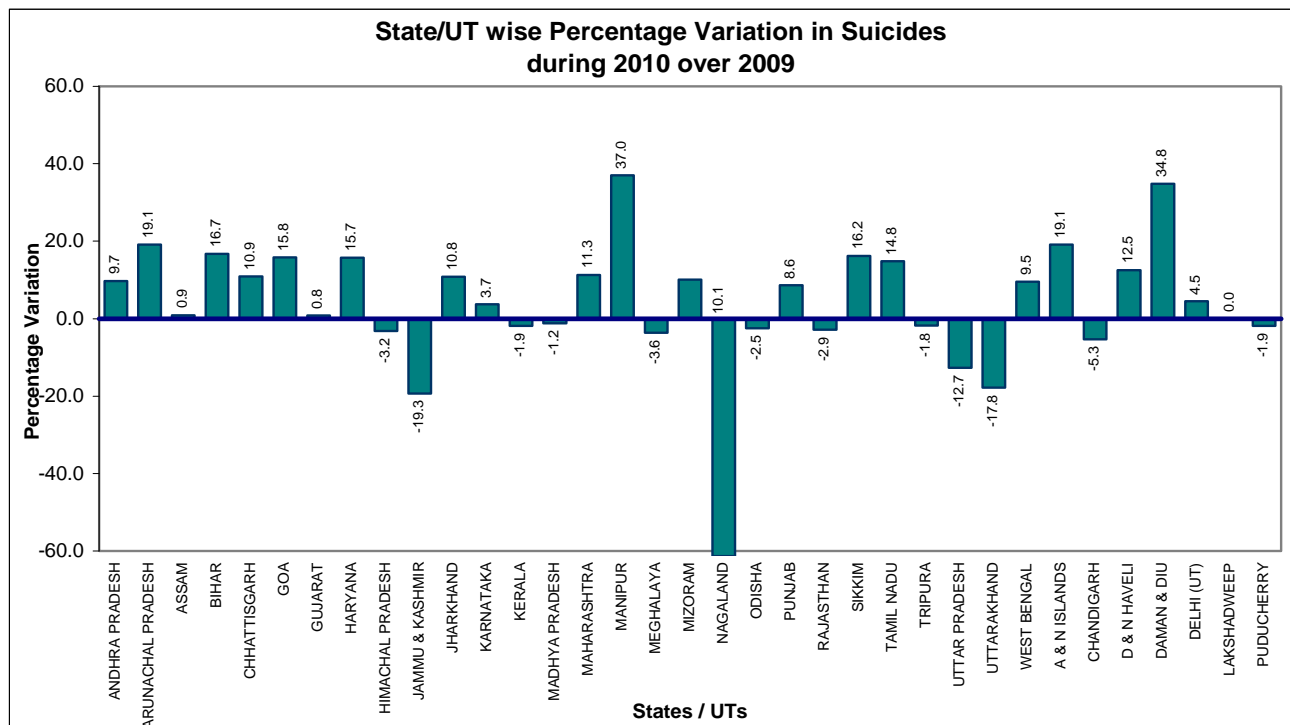
Sl. No.	Year					
	2008		2009		2010	
1	West Bengal	(11.9)	West Bengal	(11.5)	Tamil Nadu	(12.3)
2	Andhra Pradesh	(11.5)	Andhra Pradesh	(11.4)	West Bengal	(11.9)
3	Maharashtra	(11.5)	Tamil Nadu	(11.3)	Andhra Pradesh	(11.8)
4	Tamil Nadu	(11.5)	Maharashtra	(11.2)	Maharashtra	(11.8)
5	Karnataka	(9.8)	Karnataka	(9.6)	Karnataka	(9.4)

West Bengal reported the highest number of suicidal deaths in 2008, and the second highest number of such deaths in 2010 accounting for 11.9%, while 11.4% of total such deaths in the country in 2009.

Delhi has reported the highest number of suicides (1,543) among UTs, followed by Puducherry (508). Seven UTs together accounted for 1.8% of total suicides in the country. 35 mega cities on the contrary, accounted for 10.2% of the total suicides in the country.

1 suicide was reported from Lakshadweep in 2010, The States and UTs which have reported significant increase in Suicides in 2010 over 2009 were Manipur (from 27 in 2009 to 37 in 2010 – an increase of 37.0%), followed by Daman & Diu (34.8%), Arunachal Pradesh & A&N Islands (19.1% each), Bihar (16.7), Sikkim (16.2), Goa (15.8), Tamil Nadu(14.8) and (D & N Haveli (12.5%), and Maharashtra (11.3%) as compared to national average of 5.9% while highest number of decrease was reported in Uttar Pradesh (from 4158 to 3628. (Table–2.3)

**Figure – 2.3**



## Mass/Family Suicides

An attempt has been made from last year to collect information on the number of cases where family members have committed suicide jointly. 12 States and 1 UT did not furnish this information. The available information is presented in **Table–2(C)**. 290 deaths at the national level under Mass/Family suicides consisting of 90 males, 103 females and 97 minors were reported as per the information available. 6 cities also did not furnish information. The available statistics reveal that there were 24 mass suicidal deaths consisting of 7 males, 6 females and 11 minors in mega cities.

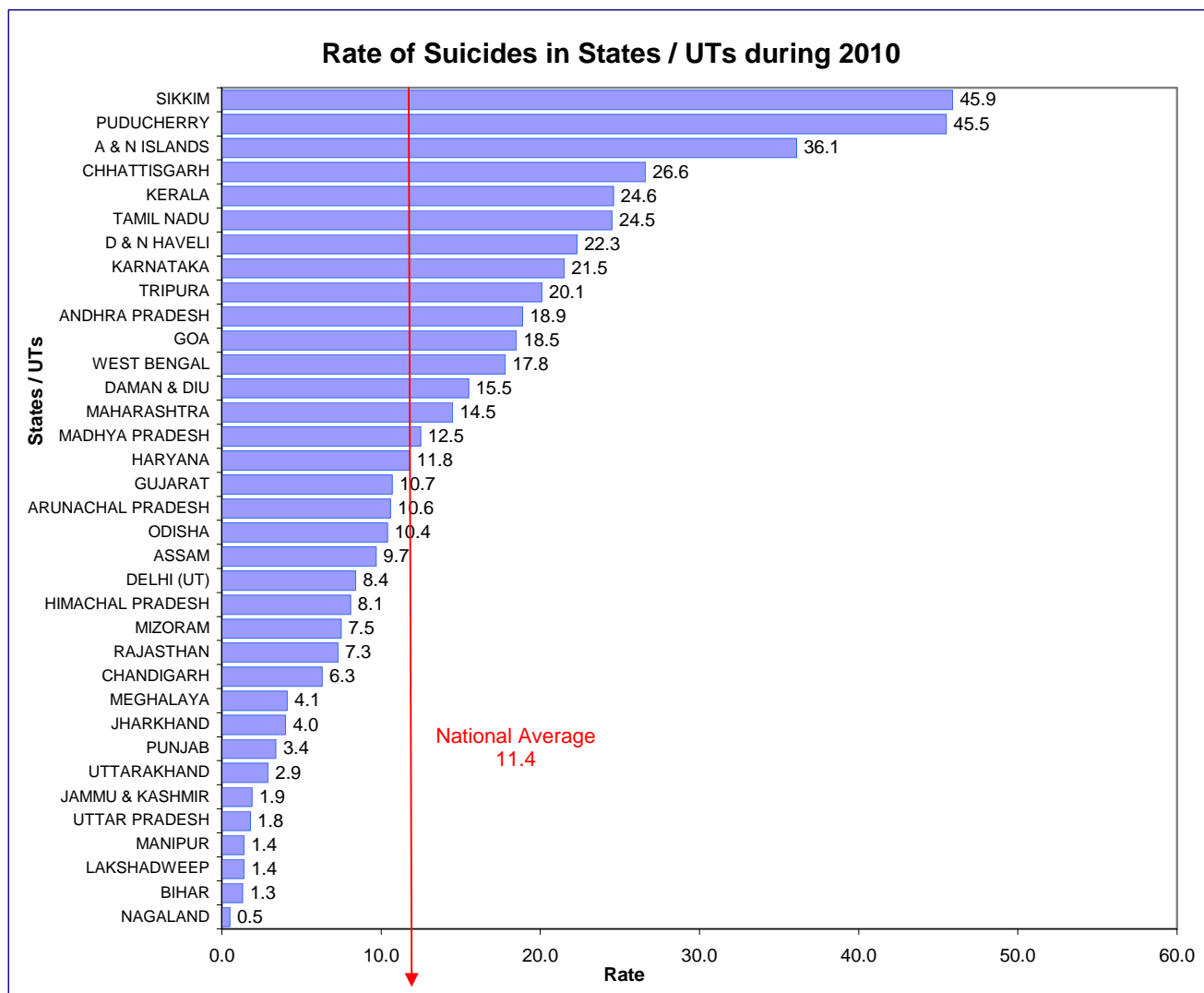
The highest number of cases were reported

from Bihar (23) followed by Kerala (22), Madhya Pradesh (21) and Andhra Pradesh(20) out of 109 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 11.4 during the year which is marginally higher than 10.9 reported in the year 2009. Sikkim reported the highest rate of suicide (45.9) followed by Puducherry (45.5), A & N Islands (36.1), Chhattisgarh (26.6) and Kerala (24.6). The details of States/UTs which have recorded higher rate of suicides during 2008 to 2010 are given in **Table–2(D)**.

Figure – 2.4



**Table – 2 (C)**  
**State/UT/City wise Distribution of Family Suicides during 2010**

Sl. No.	State/UT	No. Of Cases	Adults		Minor*		Total Victims
			Male	Female	Male	Female	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
<b>STATES:</b>							
1	ANDHRA PRADESH	20	23	20	8	10	61
2	ARUNACHAL PRADESH	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
3	ASSAM	0	0	0	0	0	0
4	BIHAR	23	23	16	17	11	67
5	CHHATTISGARH	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
6	GOA	0	0	0	0	0	0
7	GUJARAT	4	6	4	2	2	14
8	HARYANA	2	2	2	0	0	4
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	22	16	23	6	11	56
14	MADHYA PRADESH	21	8	21	8	13	50
15	MAHARASHTRA	4	4	4	0	1	9
16	MANIPUR	0	0	0	0	0	0
17	MEGHALAYA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
18	MIZORAM	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
19	NAGALAND	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
20	ODISHA	0	0	0	0	0	0
21	PUNJAB	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
22	RAJASTHAN	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
23	SIKKIM	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
24	TAMIL NADU	9	7	10	3	5	25
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
	<b>TOTAL (STATES)</b>	105	89	100	44	53	286
<b>UNION TERRITORIES:</b>							
29	A & N ISLANDS	0	0	0	0	0	0
30	CHANDIGARH	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
31	D & N HAVELI	0	0	0	0	0	0
32	DAMAN & DIU	0	0	0	0	0	0
33	DELHI (UT)	4	1	3	0	0	4
34	LAKSHADWEEP	0	0	0	0	0	0
35	PUDUCHERRY	0	0	0	0	0	0
	<b>TOTAL (UTs)</b>	4	1	3	0	0	4
	<b>TOTAL (ALL INDIA)</b>	109	90	103	44	53	290

**Table – 2 (C) (Concluded)**  
**State/UT/City wise Distribution of Family Suicides during 2010**

Sl. No.	City	No. Of Cases	Adults		Minor*		Total
			Male	Female	Male	Female	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
<b>CITIES:</b>							
36	AGRA	2	1	1	2	3	7
37	AHMEDABAD	1	1	1	1	1	4
38	ALLAHABAD	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
39	AMRITSAR	0	0	0	0	0	0
40	ASANSOL	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
41	BENGALURU	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
42	BHOPAL	0	0	0	0	0	0
43	CHENNAI	1	1	0	1	1	3
44	COIMBATORE	0	0	0	0	0	0
45	DELHI (CITY)	0	0	0	0	0	0
46	DHANBAD	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
47	FARIDABAD	0	0	0	0	0	0
48	HYDERABAD	0	0	0	0	0	0
49	INDORE	0	0	0	0	0	0
50	JABALPUR	0	0	0	0	0	0
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	3	3	3	2	0	8
55	KOLKATA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
56	LUCKNOW	0	0	0	0	0	0
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	0	0	0	0	0	0
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	0	0	0	0	0	0
70	VISHAKHAPATNAM	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL (CITIES)</b>		<b>8</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>24</b>

**Note :** NA stand for data not available.

\* Below 18 years of age.

Table – 2 (D)

States/UTs with Higher Suicide Rate during 2008 to 2010					
		Year			
2008		2009		2010	
Sikkim	48.2	Puducherry	47.2	Sikkim	45.9
Puducherry	46.9	Sikkim	39.9	Puducherry	45.5
A & N Islands	34.5	A & N Islands	31.0	A & N Islands	36.1
Kerala	25.0	Kerala	25.3	Chhattisgarh	26.6
D & N Haveli	22.6	Chhattisgarh	24.4	Kerala	24.6
<b>National Rate</b>	<b>(10.8)</b>	<b>National Rate</b>	<b>(10.9)</b>	<b>National Rate</b>	<b>(11.4)</b>

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

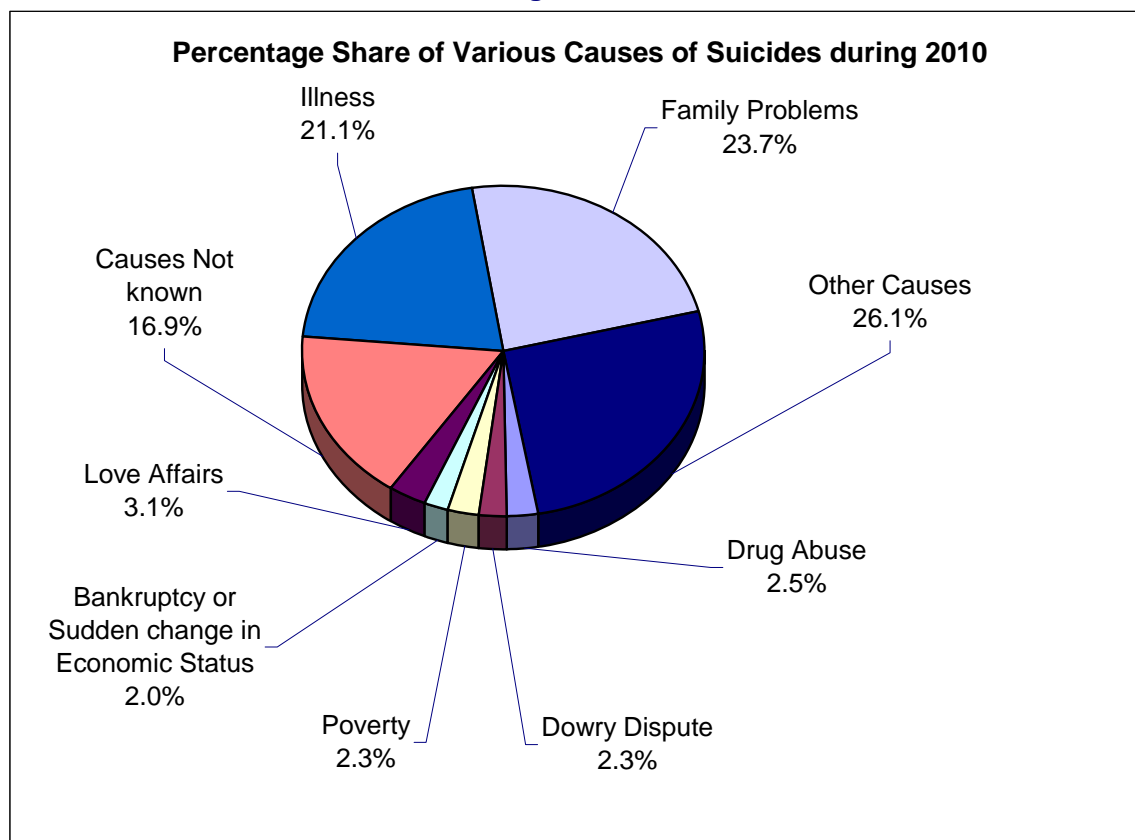
**Causes of Suicides**

'Family Problems' and 'Illness', accounting for 23.7% and 21.1% respectively, were the major causes of suicides among the specified

causes. 'Love Affairs' (3.1%), 'Drug Abuse/Addiction' (2.5) 'Dowry Dispute'(2.3), and 'Poverty' (2.3) and Bankruptcy(2.0)were the other causes of suicides.

Suicides due to 'Drug Abuse/ Addiction' have shown an increasing trend during last 3 years. Suicides due to 'Dowry Dispute' have increased from 2921 in 2009 to 3093 in 2010 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 2008 - 2010 (All India)**

Sl. No.	Cause	2008		2009		2010		% Variation in 2010 Over 2009
		Suicides	% Share	Suicides	% Share	Suicides	% Share	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
1	Bankruptcy or Sudden change in Economic Status	2970	2.4	3162	2.5	2709	2.0	-14.3
2	Suspected/Illicit Relation	1264	1.0	1180	0.9	1336	1.0	13.2
3	Cancellation/Non-Settlement of Marriage	949	0.8	1003	0.8	1027	0.8	2.4
4	Not having Children(Barrenness/Impotency)	743	0.6	680	0.5	666	0.5	-2.1
5	<b>Illness</b>	<b>27558</b>	<b>22.0</b>	<b>26731</b>	<b>21.0</b>	<b>28464</b>	<b>21.1</b>	<b>6.5</b>
	(i) AIDS/STD	815	0.7	677	0.5	545	0.4	-19.5
	(ii) Cancer	741	0.6	841	0.7	828	0.6	-1.5
	(iii) Paralysis	652	0.5	716	0.6	582	0.4	-18.7
	(iv) Insanity/Mental Illness	8699	7.0	8469	6.7	9465	7.0	11.8
	(v) Other Prolonged Illness	16651	13.3	16028	12.6	17044	12.7	6.3
6	Death of Dear Person	1019	0.8	803	0.6	1035	0.8	28.9
7	Dowry Dispute	3038	2.4	2921	2.3	3093	2.3	5.9
8	Divorce	410	0.3	331	0.3	290	0.2	-12.4
9	Drug Abuse/Addiction	2730	2.2	2942	2.3	3343	2.5	13.6
10	Failure in Examination	2189	1.8	2010	1.6	2479	1.8	23.3
11	Fall in Social Reputation	1151	0.9	1123	0.9	1322	1.0	17.7
12	Family Problems	29777	23.8	30082	23.7	31856	23.7	5.9
13	Ideological Causes/Hero Worshipping	392	0.3	128	0.1	102	0.1	-20.3
14	Illegitimate Pregnancy	238	0.2	141	0.1	153	0.1	8.5
15	Love Affairs	3774	3.0	3711	2.9	4166	3.1	12.3
16	Physical Abuse (Rape, Incest etc.)	367	0.3	320	0.3	301	0.2	-5.9
17	Poverty	3006	2.4	2987	2.3	3047	2.3	2.0
18	Professional/Career Problem	1176	0.9	1354	1.1	966	0.7	-28.7
19	Property Dispute	1394	1.1	1283	1.0	1899	1.4	48.0
20	Unemployment	2080	1.7	2472	1.9	2222	1.7	-10.1
21	Causes Not known	20124	16.1	21313	16.8	22685	16.9	6.4
22	Other Causes	18668	14.9	20474	16.1	21438	15.9	4.7
<b>Total</b>		<b>125017</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>127151</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>134599</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>5.9</b>

The number of suicides due to 'Unemployment' and 'Professional / Career Problem' have relatively declined by 10.1% and 28.7% respectively as compared to previous year, whereas number of suicides due to 'Property Dispute' and 'Death of Dear Person' have increased by 48.0% and 28.9% respectively as compared to previous year. State, UT and City-wise details on various causes of suicides

(30.5%), Karnataka (29.4%), Maharashtra (26.9%), Goa (26.1%), D & N Haveli (25.4), Gujarat (23.3%) & Puducherry (21.6%).

5.3% suicides in Kerala were due to 'Bankruptcy or Sudden Change in Economic Status'. 3.7% suicides in Jharkhand and 6.1% suicides in Sikkim were due to 'Suspected / Illicit Relation' and 'Cancellation / Non-

**Table – 2 (F)**  
**States & UTs reporting higher share of Suicides due to Illness and Family Problems during 2010**

Illness				Family Problems			
All India % Share							
21.1%				23.7%			
Sl. No.	State/UT	Suicides	% age Share	Sl. No.	State/UT	Suicides	% age Share
1	Lakshadweep	1	100.0	1	Kerala	3574	41.6
2	Puducherry	172	33.9	2	Puducherry	197	38.8
3	A & N Islands	52	33.3	3	Maharashtra	6057	38.1
4	Punjab	304	33.0	4	Tamil Nadu	5795	35.0
5	Andhra Pradesh	4845	30.5	5	Tripura	246	33.9
6	Kerala	2618	30.5	6	Chandigarh	24	33.8
7	Karnataka	3723	29.4	7	Uttarakhand	81	28.8
8	Maharashtra	4285	26.9	8	Punjab	259	28.2
9	Goa	84	26.1	9	Manipur	9	24.3
10	D & N Haveli	16	25.4				
11	Gujarat	1447	23.3				
12	Tamil Nadu	3583	21.6				

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'.

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

The lone suicide in Lakshadweep was due to 'Illness'. The other States/UTs which reported higher share of suicides due to 'Illness' were Puducherry (33.9%), A & N Islands (33.3%), Punjab(33.0), Andhra Pradesh (30.5), Kerala

Settlement of Marriage' respectively. 2.5% suicides in Sikkim were due to 'Not Having Children'. 24.2% suicides in Punjab, 19.0% in D & N Haveli and 17.3% suicides in A & N Islands each were due to 'Insanity/Mental Illness'. Similarly, 14.7% suicides in Uttar Pradesh and 8.6% suicides in Madhya Pradesh were due to 'Dowry Dispute'. 'Drug Abuse / Addiction' accounted for 9.5% suicides in D & N Haveli. 7.0% suicides in Chandigarh were due to 'Failure in Examination'. 13.0% suicides in Assam and 8.5% suicides in Chandigarh were due to 'Love Affairs'. 9.6% suicides in Andhra Pradesh were on account of 'Poverty'. 12.7% suicides in Chandigarh and 6.6% suicides in Assam were on account of 'Unemployment' and 'Property Dispute' respectively.

## Suicide Victims by Sex and Age Group

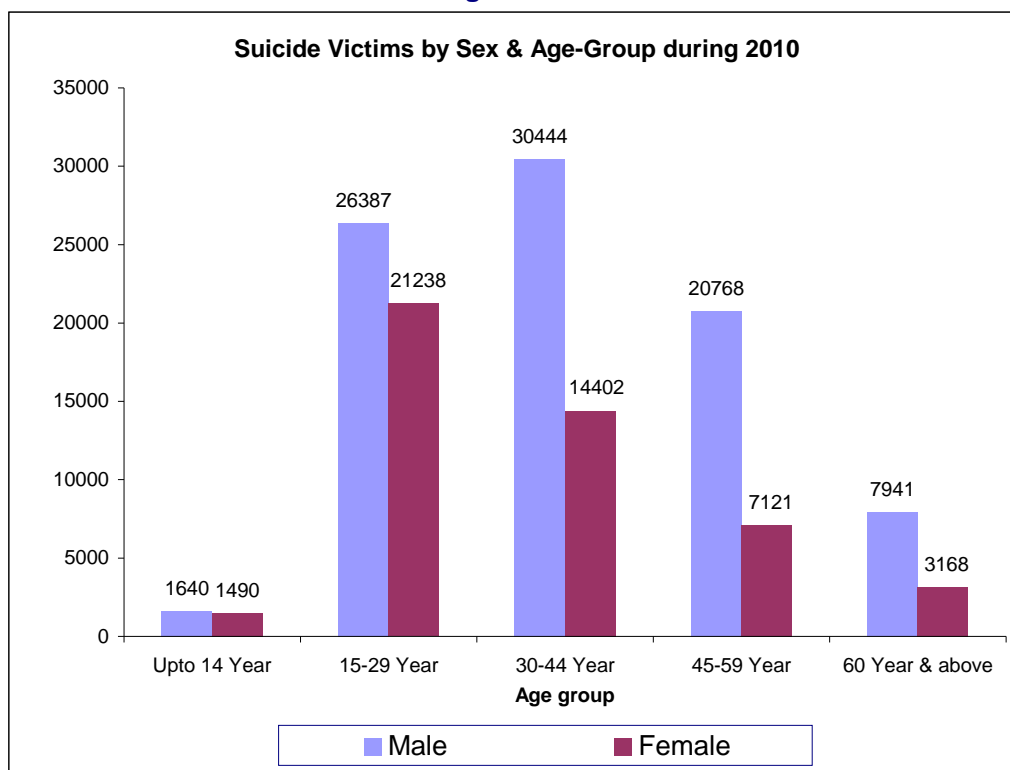
Distribution of suicides by causes and sex during 2010 is presented in **Table-2(G)**. The overall male : female ratio of suicide victims for the year 2010 was 65:35 marginal increase of male and marginal decrease of female ratio as compared to year 2009. The proportion of Boys : Girls suicide victims (upto 14 years of age) was 52:48 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 'Illegitimate Pregnancy' (100.0%), 'Dowry Dispute' (97.4%), 'Physical Abuse (Rape, Incest etc)' (74.4%), 'Barrenness / Impotency (Not having children)' (71.6.2%), 'Suspected/Illicit Relation' (57.2%), 'Divorce' (61.0%) and 'Cancellation/Non-settlement of marriage' (50.3%). 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 35.4% suicide victims were youths in the age group of 15-29 years and 33.3% were middle aged persons in the age group 30-44 years. Among the specified

causes, 'Illness' (422), 'Family Problems' (383) and 'Failure in Examination' (317) were the main cause of suicides among children (3,130). 'Family Problems' have driven 11,314 youths (15-29 years), 11,448 lower middle aged people (30-44 years) and 6,574 upper middle aged persons (45-59 years) to commit suicide. Nearly 15.1% (4,300 out of 28,464) of suicides committed by Senior citizens (60 years & above) were due to 'Illness'. Senior citizens have accounted for 8.2% 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 12.2% (384 out of 3,130) of children (upto 14 years) who committed suicides belonged to Tamil Nadu. 16.3% (1,793 out of 10,981) senior citizens (60 years & above) also belonged to Tamil Nadu.

58.1% (18 out of 31) victims in Daman & Diu and 55.7% (73 out of 131) victims in Arunachal Pradesh were young (15-29 years) as compared to the national average of 35.4%. 50.0% of the victims (6 out of 12) in Nagaland were middle aged (30-44 years) against the national average of 33.3%.

**Figure – 2.6**



**Table – 2 (G)**  
**Distribution of Suicides by Causes and Sex**  
**(Age-Group-wise) during 2010**

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	4	6	454	86	540	984	132	1116
2	Suspected/Illicit Relation	5	17	22	242	439	681	252	267	519
3	Cancellation/Non-Settlement of Marriage	1	0	1	319	375	694	170	125	295
4	Barrenness/Impotency (Not having Children)	0	4	4	47	217	264	79	204	283
<b>5</b>	<b>Illness</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>251</b>	<b>422</b>	<b>4208</b>	<b>3180</b>	<b>7388</b>	<b>5815</b>	<b>2988</b>	<b>8803</b>
	(i) AIDS/STD	3	1	4	102	55	157	152	63	215
	(ii) Cancer	0	1	1	43	44	87	150	89	239
	(iii) Paralysis	1	0	1	32	39	71	103	41	144
	(iv) Insanity/Mental Illness	83	86	169	1651	1162	2813	2111	1077	3188
	(v) Other Prolonged Illness	84	163	247	2380	1880	4260	3299	1718	5017
6	Death of Dear Person	72	20	92	152	184	336	165	126	291
7	Dowry Dispute	1	4	5	33	2122	2155	37	838	875
8	Divorce	0	0	0	49	77	126	46	75	121
9	Drug Abuse/Addiction	6	3	9	741	33	774	1398	32	1430
10	Failure in Examination	159	158	317	1115	942	2057	62	28	90
11	Social Disrepute	10	7	17	294	233	527	286	170	456
12	Family Problems	193	190	383	5755	5559	11314	7617	3831	11448
13	Ideological Causes/Hero Worshipping	0	1	1	27	27	54	17	14	31
14	Illegitimate Pregnancy	0	7	7	0	105	105	0	40	40
15	Love Affairs	37	98	135	1599	1499	3098	524	332	856
16	Physical Abuse (Rape, Incest etc.)	2	13	15	37	127	164	25	62	87
17	Poverty	21	11	32	558	262	820	885	231	1116
18	Professional/Career Problem	5	2	7	247	37	284	358	41	399
19	Property Dispute	1	1	2	340	169	509	543	178	721
20	Unemployment	10	10	20	872	141	1013	784	103	887
21	Causes Not Known	455	372	827	4806	2881	7687	5444	2281	7725
22	Other Causes	489	317	806	4492	2543	7035	4953	2304	7257
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1640</b>	<b>1490</b>	<b>3130</b>	<b>26387</b>	<b>21238</b>	<b>47625</b>	<b>30444</b>	<b>14402</b>	<b>44846</b>

**-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	752	67	819	203	25	228	2395	314	2709
2	Suspected/Illicit Relation	64	40	104	9	1	10	572	764	1336
3	Cancellation/Non-Settlement of Marriage	19	16	35	1	1	2	510	517	1027
4	Barrenness/Impotency (Not having Children)	50	44	94	13	8	21	189	477	666
<b>5</b>	<b>Illness</b>	<b>5383</b>	<b>2168</b>	<b>7551</b>	<b>2955</b>	<b>1345</b>	<b>4300</b>	<b>18532</b>	<b>9932</b>	<b>28464</b>
	(i) AIDS/STD	97	28	125	27	17	44	381	164	545
	(ii) Cancer	247	97	344	120	37	157	560	268	828
	(iii) Paralysis	147	60	207	112	47	159	395	187	582
	(iv) Insanity/Mental Illness	1607	669	2276	673	346	1019	6125	3340	9465
	(v) Other Prolonged Illness	3285	1314	4599	2023	898	2921	11071	5973	17044
6	Death of Dear Person	136	63	199	69	48	117	594	441	1035
7	Dowry Dispute	7	43	50	2	6	8	80	3013	3093
8	Divorce	15	25	40	3	0	3	113	177	290
9	Drug Abuse/Addiction	861	27	888	232	10	242	3238	105	3343
10	Failure in Examination	11	1	12	3	0	3	1350	1129	2479
11	Social Disrepute	199	55	254	54	14	68	843	479	1322
12	Family Problems	4756	1818	6574	1507	630	2137	19828	12028	31856
13	Ideological Causes/Hero Worshipping	7	4	11	3	2	5	54	48	102
14	Illegitimate Pregnancy	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	153	153
15	Love Affairs	55	20	75	1	1	2	2216	1950	4166
16	Physical Abuse (Rape Incest etc.)	12	20	32	1	2	3	77	224	301
17	Poverty	712	115	827	214	38	252	2390	657	3047
18	Professional/Career Problem	233	16	249	27	0	27	870	96	966
19	Property Dispute	383	115	498	140	29	169	1407	492	1899
20	Unemployment	242	20	262	39	1	40	1947	275	2222
21	Causes Not Known	3398	1255	4653	1323	470	1793	15426	7259	22685
22	Other Causes	3473	1188	4661	1142	537	1679	14549	6889	21438
	<b>Total</b>	<b>20768</b>	<b>7121</b>	<b>27889</b>	<b>7941</b>	<b>3168</b>	<b>11109</b>	<b>87180</b>	<b>47419</b>	<b>134599</b>

## Professional Status of Suicide Victims

Information regarding professional status of suicide victims is presented in **Table–2.6**. Housewives (25,058) accounted for 52.8% of the total female victims and nearly 18.6% of total victims committing suicides. Government servants were 1.3% of the total suicide victims.

Private and Public Sector personnel have accounted for 7.8% and 2.2% of the total suicide victims respectively, whereas students and un-employed victims accounted for 5.5% and 7.5% respectively. Self employed category accounted for 41.1% of victims. It comprised 11.9% engaged in Farming/ Agriculture activities, 5.3% engaged in Business and 3.0% Professionals.

State/UT-wise and Profession wise analysis [**Table–2.11**] of suicide victims reveals that the lone victim of suicide in Lakshadweep was a housewife. Government servants accounted for 35.5% and 16.2% of suicide victims in Mizoram and Manipur respectively. 32.1% suicide victims in A & N Islands and 35.5% suicide victims in Daman & Diu were in Private Service. 11.3% and 19.7% suicide victims in Chandigarh were unemployed and students respectively. 32.4% suicide victims in Manipur were unemployed. 14.7% suicide victims in Assam were engaged in business activity. 41.3% suicide victims in Puducherry were professionals.

Age-wise profile of professional status of victims during the year 2010 shows that nearly 44.0% of 'Housewives' and 77.3% of Students who had committed suicides during 2010 were in the age-group 15-29 years. 40.0% of

salaried and 37.1 of unemployed suicide victims were in the age – group 30-44 years.

## Social Status of Suicide Victims

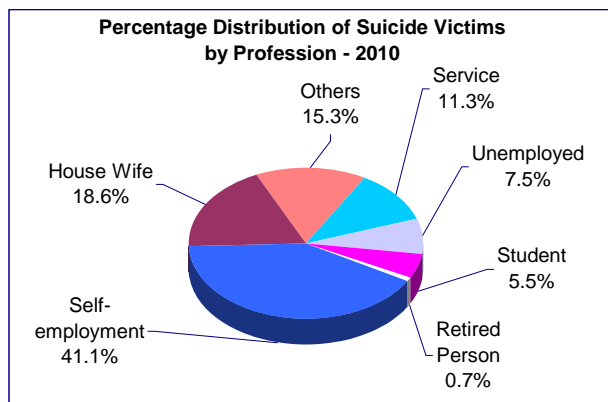
The information on the marital status of suicide victims has been presented in **Table–2.7**. It was observed that 69.2% of the suicide victims were married while 22.8% were unmarried. Divorcees and Separated have accounted for about 4.0% of the total suicide victims. The proportion of Widow & Widower victims was around 3.8%.

The State/UT-wise distribution of suicide victims by Marital Status is presented in **Table–2.12**. It was observed that 50.0% of victims in Mizoram and 48.4% of suicide victims in Daman & Diu were unmarried against 22.9% at the National level. The sole suicide victim in Lakshadweep was married. 78.2% suicide victims in Kerala were also married against the National average of 69.2%.

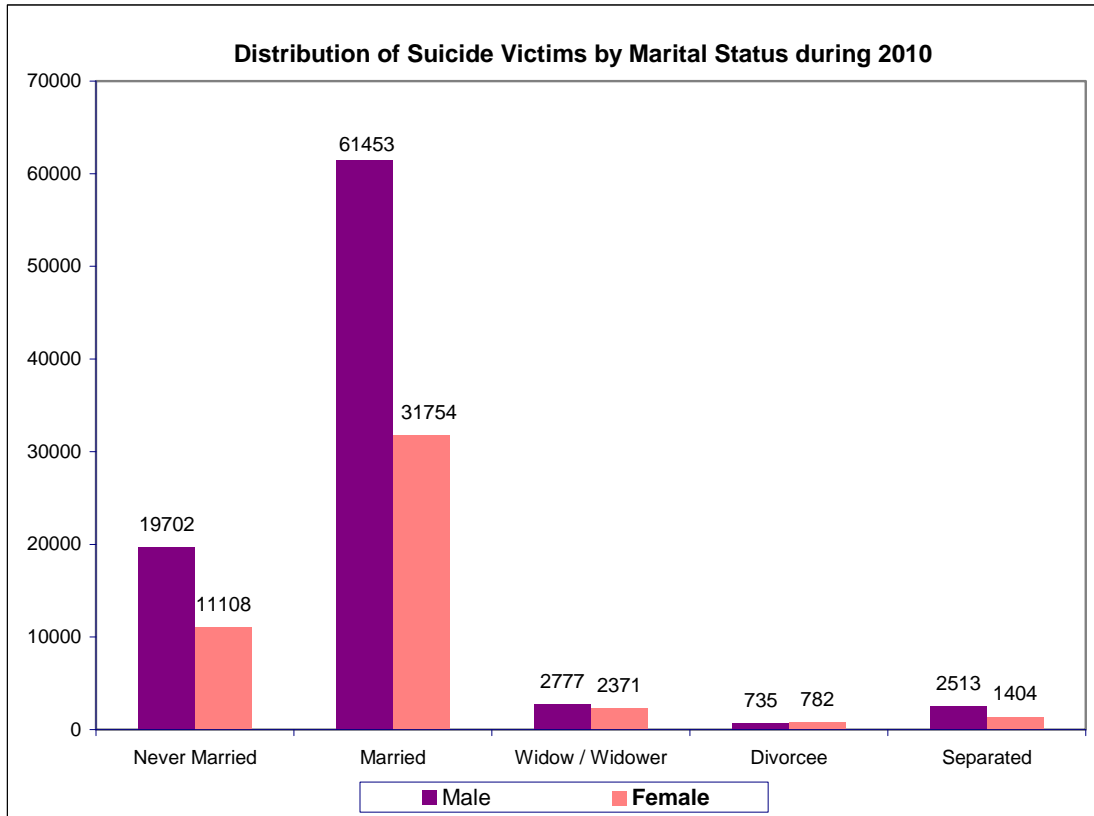
## Educational Status of Suicide Victims

The sex-wise and education-wise break-up of suicide victims is presented in **Table–2.8**. The maximum number of suicide victims was educated up to Primary level (26.3%). Middle and Illiterate educated persons accounted for 22.7% suicide victims and 19.8% respectively. Only 3.3% suicide victims were graduates and post-graduates. 33.4% suicide victims in Punjab were illiterate. 50.0% suicide victims in Nagaland had education upto primary level. 42.1% suicide victims in Mizoram and 26.8% suicide victims in Chandigarh had middle level education. The sole suicide victim in Lakshadweep had education upto Middle level [**Table–2.13**]

**Figure – 2.7**



**Figure – 2.8**



**Figure – 2.9**

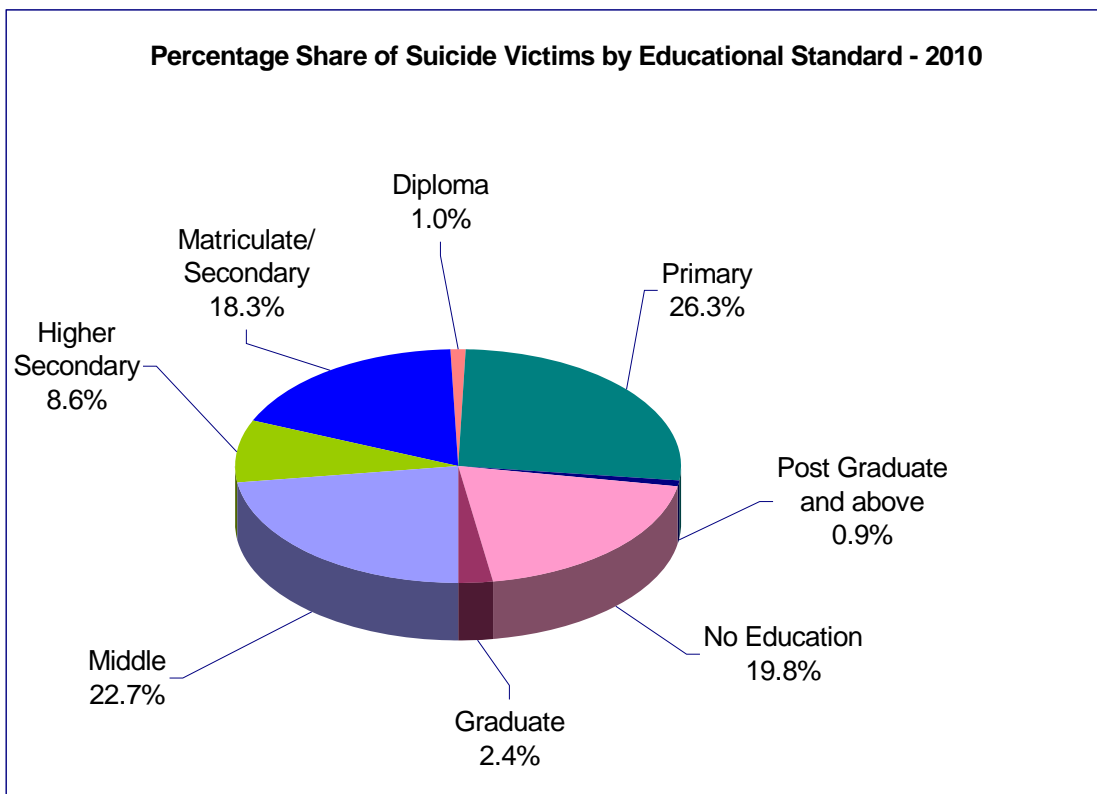


Table – 2 (H)

## Percentage of Suicide Victims by Educational Level — 2008-2010

Sl.No.	Educational Level	Percentage Share		
		2008	2009	2010
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
1	No Education	20.7	21.4	19.8
2	Primary	25.3	23.4	26.3
3	Middle	23.7	23.7	22.7
4	Matriculate/Secondary	17.9	18.7	18.3
5	Higher Secondary	8.9	8.8	8.6
6	Diploma	0.8	0.9	1.0
7	Graduate	2.2	2.3	2.4
8	Post-Graduate & above	0.4	0.8	0.9
<b>Total</b>		<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**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,

Kerala (4295), Mizoram(80.3%) and D & N Haveli (79.4%). Share of suicides by 'Poisoning' has decreased from 33.6% in 2009 to 33.1% in 2010 while Fire/Self immolation has been decreased to 8.8 in 2010 from 9.2 in 2009 while

Table – 2 (I)

## Percentage share of the Means adopted in Committing Suicides during 2008-2010

Sl. No.	Means Adopted	% Share		
		2008	2009	2010
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
1	Alcoholism	1.2	1.2	1.1
2	Drowning	6.7	6.1	6.2
3	Fire/self immolation	8.8	9.2	8.8
4	Fire arms	0.4	0.4	0.5
5	Hanging	32.2	31.5	31.4
6	<b>Poisoning</b>	<b>34.6</b>	<b>33.6</b>	<b>33.1</b>
	i) Consumption of insecticides	19.1	20.4	18.8
	ii) Other poisons	15.5	13.2	14.3
7	Self infliction of injury	0.3	0.2	0.6
8	<b>Jumping from</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>1.3</b>
	i) Buildings	0.5	0.7	0.6
	ii) Other sites	0.4	0.8	0.7
9	Jumping off from moving vehicles/trains	0.4	0.8	0.6
10	Machine	0.1	0.1	0.1
11	Over dose of sleeping pills	0.5	0.5	0.4
12	Self electrocution	0.8	0.8	0.9
13	Coming under running vehicles/train	3.0	2.8	3.1
14	Other means	10.1	11.2	11.9
<b>Total</b>		<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

etc. to more painful means such as self inflicted injuries, hanging, shooting, etc. Suicide by Consuming Poison (33.1%), Hanging (31.4%), Self Immolation (8.8%) and Drowning (6.2%) were the prominent means of committing suicides (Table–2.9) as in past. Substantial number of victims who terminated their lives by hanging have been reported from Maharashtra (6188) followed by Tamil Nadu (4353) and

share of 'Self electrocution', 'Coming under running vehicles/train' has shown marginal increase in 2010 as compared to 2009. Share of 'Jumping' from buildings and other sites has decreased from 0.7% in 2009 to 0.6% in 2010 while 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 — 2010**

Consumption of Poison				By Hanging			
All-India Share (33.1%)				All-India Share (31.4%)			
Sl. No.	States/UTs	Cases	% share	Sl. No.	States/UTs	Cases	% share
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
1	Odisha	1911	44.9	1	Lakshadweep	1	100.0
2	Andhra Pradesh	6936	43.6	2	A & N Islands	126	80.8
3	Gujarat	2619	42.2	3	Mizoram	61	80.3
4	Himachal Pradesh	222	41.0	4	D & N Haveli	50	79.4
5	Uttarakhand	112	39.9	5	Meghalaya	83	76.9
6	Tripura	285	39.3	6	Manipur	27	73.0
7	Maharashtra	6128	38.5	7	Puducherry	350	68.9
8	Tamil Nadu	6065	36.6	8	Delhi (Ut)	976	63.3
9	Karnataka	4496	35.5	9	Chandigarh	42	59.2
10	Jammu & Kashmir	90	34.7	10	Nagaland	7	58.3
				11	Sikkim	159	56.8
				12	Goa	180	55.9
				13	Arunachal Pradesh	73	55.7
				14	Assam	1511	50.5
				15	Kerala	4295	50.0
				16	Tripura	361	49.8
				17	Maharashtra	6188	38.9
				18	Daman & Diu	12	38.7
				19	Chhattisgarh	2314	35.5
				20	Madhya Pradesh	3049	33.9
				21	West Bengal	5058	31.5

**Table – 2 (K)**  
**Distribution of Age-group wise & Sex wise Suicides Classified according to**  
**Means Adopted during 2010**

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	1	0	1	307	75	382	506	19	525
2	Drowning	288	160	448	1575	1257	2832	1636	914	2550
3	Fire/Self Immolation	79	176	255	1274	3806	5080	1693	2362	4055
4	Fire-Arms	1	23	24	152	140	292	150	65	215
5	Hanging	375	315	690	9191	6569	15760	10477	4006	14483
6	<b>Poisoning</b>	<b>342</b>	<b>403</b>	<b>745</b>	<b>8791</b>	<b>6778</b>	<b>15569</b>	<b>10106</b>	<b>4788</b>	<b>14894</b>
	(i) Consumption of Insecticides	223	263	486	5223	3960	9183	5928	2598	8526
	(ii) Consumption of other Poison	119	140	259	3568	2818	6386	4178	2190	6368
7	Self Infliction of injury	12	9	21	226	98	324	219	66	285
8	<b>Jumping</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>385</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>559</b>	<b>443</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>603</b>
	(i) From Building	15	8	23	182	86	268	235	68	303
	(ii) From Other sites	13	12	25	203	88	291	208	92	300
9	Jumping off Moving Vehicles/ Trains	9	9	18	177	78	255	209	47	256
10	By Machine	1	3	4	47	15	62	66	10	76
11	Overdose of sleeping pills	5	1	6	119	98	217	121	79	200
12	Self-electrocution	30	10	40	291	97	388	302	83	385
13	Coming under running vehicles/ trains	29	21	50	989	327	1316	1161	283	1444
14	Other means	440	340	780	2863	1726	4589	3355	1520	4875
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1640</b>	<b>1490</b>	<b>3130</b>	<b>26387</b>	<b>21238</b>	<b>47625</b>	<b>30444</b>	<b>14402</b>	<b>44846</b>
	<b>Percentage</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>19.6</b>	<b>15.8</b>	<b>35.4</b>	<b>22.6</b>	<b>10.7</b>	<b>33.3</b>

**Table – 2 (K) (Concluded)**

Sl. 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	392	41	433	128	21	149	1334	156	1490	89.5
2	Drowning	1118	553	1671	525	383	908	5142	3267	8409	61.1
3	Fire/Self Immolation	801	926	1727	290	478	768	4137	7748	11885	34.8
4	Fire-Arms	75	18	93	34	8	42	412	254	666	61.9
5	Hanging	6659	1754	8413	2286	634	2920	28988	13278	42266	68.6
6	<b>Poisoning</b>	<b>7373</b>	<b>2336</b>	<b>9709</b>	<b>2650</b>	<b>968</b>	<b>3618</b>	<b>29262</b>	<b>15273</b>	<b>44535</b>	<b>65.7</b>
	(i) Consumption of insecticides	4139	1159	5298	1309	486	1795	16822	8466	25288	66.5
	(ii) Consumption of other Poison	3234	1177	4411	1341	482	1823	12440	6807	19247	64.6
7	Self Infliction of injury	125	26	151	42	13	55	624	212	836	74.6
8	<b>Jumping</b>	<b>239</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>333</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>1177</b>	<b>493</b>	<b>1670</b>	<b>70.5</b>
	(i) From Building	114	29	143	48	10	58	594	201	795	74.7
	(ii) From Other sites	125	65	190	34	35	69	583	292	875	66.6
9	Jumping off Moving Vehicles/ Trains	120	21	141	63	10	73	578	165	743	77.8
10	By Machine	24	5	29	4	2	6	142	35	177	80.2
11	Overdose of sleeping pills	83	42	125	26	15	41	354	235	589	60.1
12	Self electrocution	190	76	266	48	23	71	861	289	1150	74.9
13	Coming under running vehicles/ trains	801	197	998	329	67	396	3309	895	4204	78.7
14	Other means	2768	1032	3800	1434	501	1935	10860	5119	15979	68.0
<b>Total</b>		<b>20768</b>	<b>7121</b>	<b>27889</b>	<b>7941</b>	<b>3168</b>	<b>11109</b>	<b>87180</b>	<b>47419</b>	<b>134599</b>	<b>64.8</b>
<b>Percentage</b>		<b>15.4</b>	<b>5.3</b>	<b>20.7</b>	<b>5.9</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>8.3</b>	<b>64.8</b>	<b>35.2</b>	<b>100.0</b>	

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 (65.2%).

2010. The rate of suicides was 11.7 in 2006; it was around 13 in 2007 and declined to 12.1 in 2008 and showing an increasing trend in 2009 (12.5) and 2010 (12.7).

The four Metropolitan Cities — Bengaluru (1,778), Chennai (1,325), Delhi (1,242) and

**Table – 2 (L)**

Year	Suicides in Cities	Cities share to All India	Rate in Cities	% Variation over previous year (incidence)
2006	13844	11.7	12.8	12.3
2007	14336	11.7	13.3	3.6
2008	13071	10.6	12.1	– 8.8
2009	13503	10.6	12.5	3.3
2010	13675	10.2	12.7	1.3

### Suicides in Cities

The number of suicides in 35 mega cities have reported a increasing trend during the year 2006 to 2007. Thereafter, the number of suicides in cities has decreased from 14,336 in 2007 to 13,071 in 2008 then increased to 13,503 in 2009 and increased to 13675 in

Mumbai (1,192) have reported higher number of Suicides. These four cities together have reported almost 40.5% of the total suicides reported from 35 mega cities. Patna city reported maximum increase of 136.5% (from 63 suicides in 2009 to 149 suicides in 2010). Dhanbad city has reported maximum decline of 60.5% (152 suicides in 2009 to 60 suicides in 2010) over 2009.

**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 2010)		Share in total suicides reported in	
		Cities	All-India	Cities	All-India
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
1	Family Problems	3203	31856	23.4	23.7
2	Total Illness	3006	28464	22.0	21.1
3	Insanity/Mental Illness *	1176	9465	8.6	7.0
4	Unemployment	450	2222	3.3	1.7
5	Love Affairs	499	4166	3.6	3.1
6	Drug Abuse/Addiction	444	3343	3.2	2.5
7	Failure in Examination	384	2479	2.8	1.8
8	Bankruptcy or Sudden Change in Economic Status	252	2709	1.8	2.0
9	Poverty	285	3047	2.1	2.3
10	Dowry Dispute	292	3093	2.1	2.3
	<b>Total</b>	<b>8815</b>	<b>81379</b>	<b>64.3</b>	<b>60.5</b>

\* included in total illness

The suicide rate in cities (12.7) was higher as compared to All-India suicide rate (11.4).

Jabalpur has reported the highest rate of suicides (41.5) followed by Rajkot city (38.4).

Kolkata city and Amritsar had the lowest rate at 2.1 and 2.9 respectively among 35 cities.

8.6% of suicides were committed due to 'Mental Illness' as against 7.0% of such suicides at National level as per causal analysis of suicides in cities. Similarly, the share of suicides due to 'Unemployment', 'Love Affairs', 'Drug Abuse / Addiction' and 'Failure in Examination' was comparatively higher than their respective National averages.

'Bankruptcy / or Sudden Change in Economic Status' was the reason of 9.8% of suicides in Kochi. 'Suspected / Illicit Relation' accounted for 11.0% and 10.9% suicides in Varanasi and Jamshedpur respectively. In Rajkot, 3.9% suicides were on account of 'AIDS/STD'. 'Insanity / Mental Illness' accounted for 59.5% suicides in Ludhiana, 35.5% in Faridabad and 34.7% suicides in Kolkata. 28.3% suicides in Varanasi were accounted for by 'Dowry Dispute' whereas 14.6% suicides in Nagpur were caused by 'Drug Abuse / Addiction'. 'Failure in Examination' accounted for 19.4% suicides in Jamshedpur, 9.8% suicides in Lucknow and 6.5% suicides in Nasik. 6.1% suicides in Jamshedpur and 3.7% in Agra were caused by 'Fall in Social Reputation'. 'Family Problems' claimed 62.1% suicides in Amritsar and were the major cause of suicides in Coimbatore (60.1%), Mumbai (44.3%), Surat (43.1%) and Kanpur (41.3%). 'Love Affairs' accounted for 37.8% suicides in Meerut and 15.0% suicides in Varanasi. 10.8% suicides in Vijayawada and 9.9% suicides in Madurai were on account of 'Poverty'. In both Ahmedabad and Jamshedpur, 3.0% suicides were attributed to 'Professional / Career Problem'. 6.5% suicides in Agra and 2.1% suicides in Indore were attributed to 'Property Dispute' and 'Unemployment' respectively. **[Table-2.10]**

51.7% suicide victims were housewives in Amritsar while 12.1% and 10.0% were Government servants in Agra and Dhanbad respectively. In Nagpur, 40.4% of suicide

victims were private employees. 18.1% suicide victims in Kolkata were employees of PSUs. 23.4% suicides in Kanpur, 19.4% suicides in Jamshedpur and 17.6% suicides in Nasik were committed by students. 28.3% suicide victims in Varanasi and 26.8% suicide victims in Rajkot were unemployed. In Vijayawada, 18.7% suicide victims were engaged in Business activity and 12.0% victims were engaged in Professional activities. 26.1% of suicide victims in Lucknow were engaged in Farming / Agriculture activity. **[Table-2.11]**

'Educational Profile' of suicide victims revealed that 39.4% of suicide victims in Vijayawada and 37.1% of suicide victims in Indore were illiterate. 68.7% of suicide victims in Kochi were educated upto Primary level. 39.4% of suicide victims in Surat had education upto Middle level. 79.3% of suicide victims in Amritsar were educated upto Matriculate / Secondary level. 43.3% suicide victims in Meerut, 40.0% suicide victims in Dhanbad and 38.6% in Varanasi were educated upto Higher Secondary / Intermediate / Pre-University level. 11.6% suicide victims in Kolkata were Diploma holders. 21.5% suicide victims in Bhopal and 20.5% suicide victims in Varanasi were Graduates while 23.4% suicide victims in Bhopal and 3.3% suicide victims in Meerut had education upto Post Graduation or above. **[Table-2.13]**

The pattern of suicides reported from 35 cities showed that 'Hanging' (46.8%), 'Poisoning' (18.4%) and 'Self Immolation' (12.2%) were the prominent means adopted by the suicide victims in the cities. 'Hanging' claimed 75.7% of suicide victims in Ludhiana and 71.7% of suicide victims in Lucknow. 44.1% suicide victims consumed insecticides in Varanasi. In Amritsar, 34.5% suicide victims immolated themselves. 15.6% suicides in Meerut were committed by 'Fire Arms'. 6.0% suicides were committed by 'Coming under Running Vehicles / Trains' in Lucknow. **[Table-2.14]**

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