ABSTRACT

Several studies conducted in India have linked the phenomenon of farmer suicides generally to agrarian crisis, particularly to crop failure, raising input prices, inferior quality of seeds and pesticides, private money lending, inter-linkages of product and credit markets and non-remunerative prices. There is a feeling of insecurity due to crop failure, land alienation and indebtedness. This has resulted in a spate of farmers’ suicides in different parts of the country.

This paper views the agrarian distress and farmers’ suicide from Political Science point of view and attempts assess the role of the rural political institutions in addressing the crisis. The underlying assumption is that the political community and political institutions at the grass roots level have to address and respond to the situation as institutions in the immediate reach of the small and marginal farmers. The paper attempts to study whether the rural institutions are responding? If not responding why they are not responding and what are the reasons for the non-response. The study proposes to delineate the various types of rural institutions in Andhra Pradesh and studies their role in addressing and alleviating the present agrarian distress. The study also proposes to delineate various policy processes on the part of the state government which have been involved in rural governance policy and attempts to see how the role of the institutions is crucial in addressing the agrarian distress. The paper also addresses the question as to what policy processes have gone into the present impasse in the rural governance in the state of Andhra Pradesh and attempts to suggest how the involvement of rural institutional structures in addressing the farmer’s suicides can help alleviate the situation. Methodologically the study will involve both analyses of secondary literature on farmers’ suicides in Andhra Pradesh and empirical field-work in Andhra Pradesh in selected locations.

KEYWORDS: Agrarian Crisis, Hybrid, Debits & Credits, Government Loans, Agriculture, Irrigation, Land Holdings.

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