

Suicide rates in Kerala: Dominant Reasons and Economic Implications

Abstract

Using the last fifteen years data from 2000 to 2014 the current study investigates dominant reasons and economic implications of suicides rate in Kerala. The reason to choose Kerala for the study is that, despite of all kind of socio-economic achievements like high literacy rate, better quality of life, high life expectancy and health awareness etc., the state positioned top in growth of suicide rates in India compared to other Indian states. Therefore it is very important to analyse the dominant reasons behind this ramble. It is also imperative to observe the nature of relation between the suicide rates with the macro economic performance of the state. The various studies existing in the literature observed that the income related aspects play a significant position behind the increased suicidal tendencies. But as far as Kerala state is concerned the effect of health and psychological factors signifies a dominant position. The study further reveals that apart from psychological weakness, the macro performance plays a crucial role in determining the suicide rates. Even though poverty is not a significant factor, the role of state GDP and unemployment are notable factors affecting suicide rates in Kerala. Therefore the study suggests that, the state has to consider some effective strategies and interventions for the prevention of suicide.