

CHAPTER – 2

SUICIDES IN INDIA

Incidence and Rate of Suicides during the Decade (1994–2004)

More than one lakh persons (1,13,697) in the country lost their lives by committing suicide during the year 2004. This showed a marginal increase over the previous year's figure (1,10,851) by 2.6 per cent [Table – 2.1].

The number of suicides in the country during the decade (1994 – 2004) has recorded an increase of 27.5 per cent (from 89,195 in 1994

to 1,136,97 in 2004). The increase in incidence of suicides was reported each year during the decade except in 1995,1996, 2000 and 2001. The population has increased by 20.6 per cent during the decade and the rate of suicides has increased by 6.1 per cent. The rate of suicides has declined continually during past 5 years from 11.2 in 1999 to 10.4 in 2003, but it has increased slightly to 10.5 in the year 2004. [Table–2(A)].

Table — 2 (A)

Incidence of Suicides, Growth of Population and Rate of Suicides During 2000 to 2004

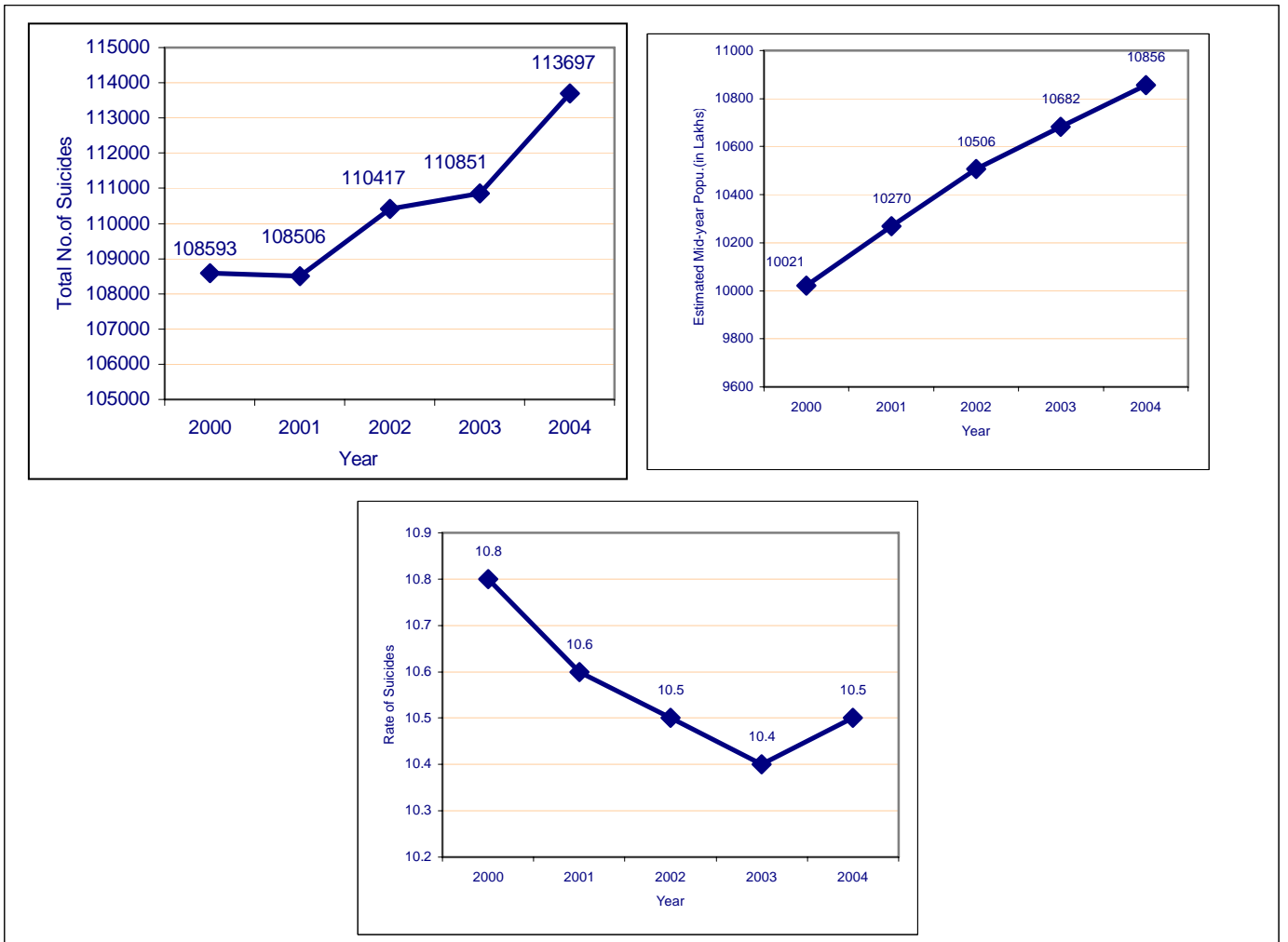
Sl. No.	Year	Total number of Suicides	Estimated Mid-Year Population* (In Lakhs)**	Rate of Suicides (Col.3/Col.4)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
1.	2000	108593	10021	10.8
2.	2001	108506	10270	10.6
3.	2002	110417	10506	10.5
4.	2003	110851	10682	10.4
5.	2004	113697	10856	10.5

* – 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 2000 to 2004



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 (14,729) accounting for 13.0 per cent followed by Andhra Pradesh (13,526) accounting for 11.9 per cent. The other States which have reported higher number of suicides during the year were West Bengal (13,424), Tamil Nadu (12,839) and Karnataka (11,937) accounting for 11.8 per cent, 11.3 per cent and 10.5 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 (16.3% share of population) has reported comparatively lower percentage of suicidal deaths, accounting for only 3.2 per cent of the total suicides reported in the country.

The States which have witnessed significantly higher cases of suicidal deaths during the year 2002 to 2004 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 2002 to 2004. All the five States viz. Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka have registered consistently higher number of suicidal deaths during last few years.

Figure 2.2

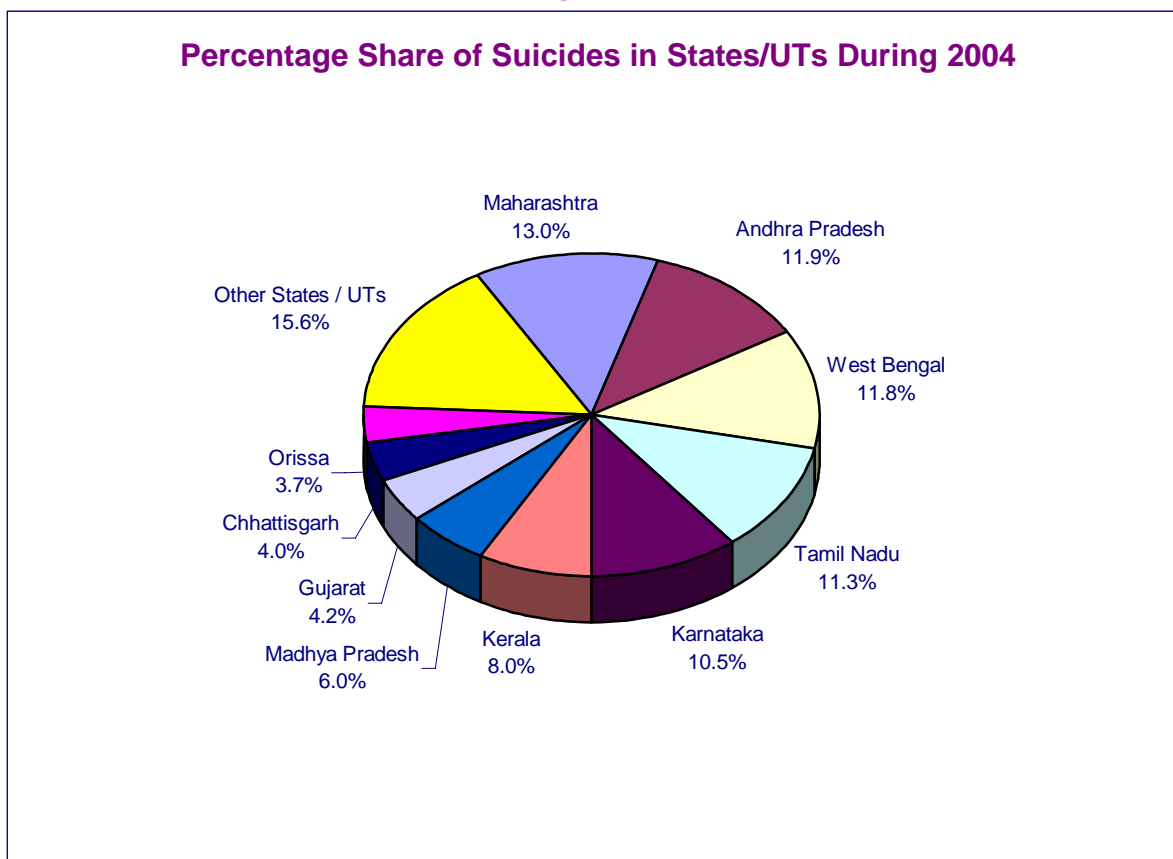


Table - 2 (B)
States with higher percentage share of Suicides during 2002 to 2004

Sl. No.	Year					
	2002		2003		2004	
1	Maharashtra	(13.2)	Maharashtra	(13.3)	Maharashtra	(13.0)
2	West Bengal	(11.8)	West Bengal	(12.0)	Andhra Pradesh	(11.9)
3	Karnataka	(11.1)	Karnataka	(11.2)	West Bengal	(11.8)
4	Andhra Pradesh	(10.6)	Tamil Nadu	(10.7)	Tamil Nadu	(11.3)
5	Tamil Nadu	(10.2)	Andhra Pradesh	(10.3)	Karnataka	(10.5)

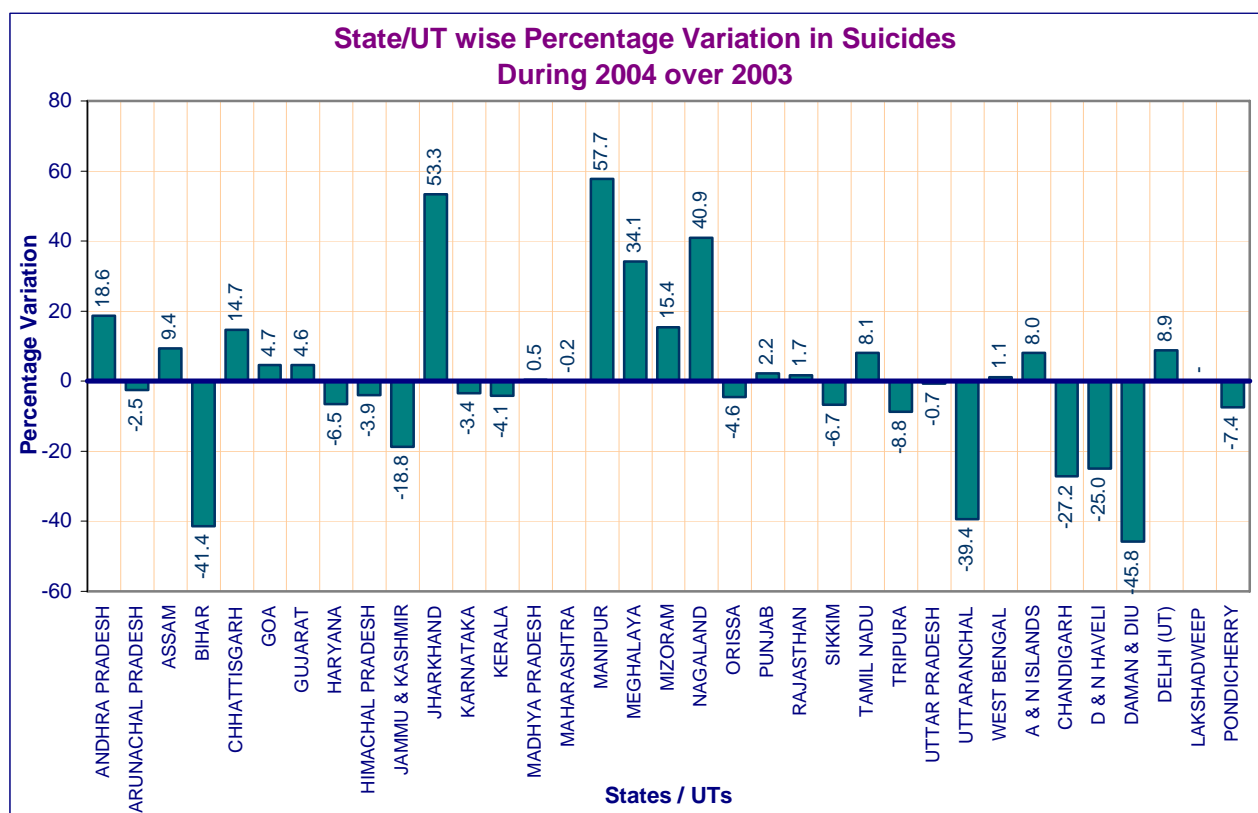
Maharashtra has reported the highest number of suicidal deaths during the last 3 years (2002-2004), accounting for 13.2%, 13.3% & 13.0% of total such deaths in the country.

Delhi has reported the highest number of suicides (1,256) among UTs, followed by Pondicherry (539). There was not a single case of Suicidal deaths in Lakshadweep. Seven UTs together accounted for 1.8 per cent of total suicides in the country. On the

contrary, 34 mega cities accounted for 10.3 per cent of the total suicides in the country.

The States and UTs which have reported significant increase in Suicides in 2004 over 2003 were Manipur (an increase of 57.7%) followed by Jharkhand (53.3%), Nagaland (40.9%), Meghalaya (34.1%), Andhra Pradesh (18.6%), Mizoram (15.4%) and Chhattisgarh (14.7%) as compared to national average increase of only 2.6% (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. Twelve States viz. **Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Jharkhand, Manipur, Mizoram, Orissa, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal** and four UTs namely, **Chandigarh, Daman & Diu, Delhi and Pondicherry** did not furnish this information. The available information is presented in Table – 2(C).

366 deaths at the national level under common pact of mass/family suicides consisting of 146 males and 220 females were reported as per the information available. **Twenty seven cities viz. Ahmedabad, Amritsar, Asansol, Bangalore, Bhopal, Chennai, Coimbatore, Delhi, Hyderabad, Indore, Jabalpur, Jaipur, Kochi, Kolkata, Lucknow, Ludhiana, Madurai, Mumbai, Nagpur, Nasik, Patna, Pune, Surat, Vadodara, Varanasi,**

Vijayawada and Vishakhapatnam also did not furnish information. The available statistics reveal that there were 43 mass suicidal deaths consisting of 25 males and 18 females in mega cities.

The highest number of cases were reported from Kerala (53) followed by Andhra Pradesh (44) and Rajasthan (44) out of total of 195 cases.

Rate of Suicides – Trends in States/UTs

Rate of suicides, i.e., the number of suicides per one lakh of population, has been widely accepted as a standard yardstick. The All India rate of suicides was 10.6 during the year as compared to 10.4 during 2003. **Pondicherry reported the highest rate of suicide (53.6)** followed by **Andaman & Nicobar Islands (32.7), Kerala (27.8), Tripura (23.4)** and **Goa (22.0)**.

The details of States/UTs which have recorded higher rate of suicides during 2002 to 2004 are given in Table – 2(D).

Figure 2.4

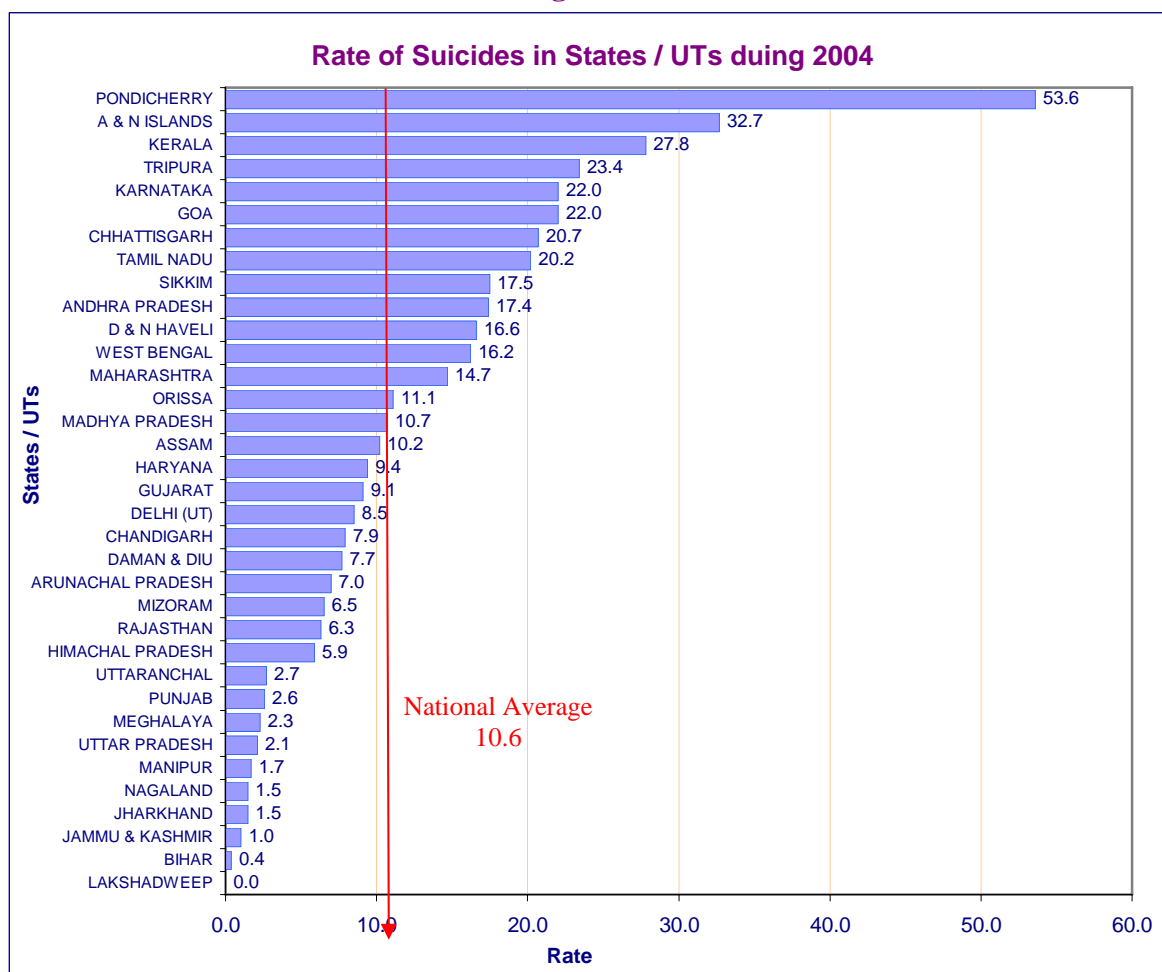


Table - 2 (C)
State/UT/City wise Distribution of Family Suicides During 2004

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	44	37	41	9	13	100
2	ARUNACHAL PRADESH	0	0	0	0	0	0
3	ASSAM	0	0	0	0	0	0
4	BIHAR	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
5	CHHATTISGARH	5	5	5	0	2	12
6	GOA	0	0	0	0	0	0
7	GUJARAT	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
8	HARYANA	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
9	HIMACHAL PRADESH	2	1	2	0	1	4
10	JAMMU & KASHMIR	0	0	0	0	0	0
11	JHARKHAND	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
12	KARNATAKA	11	8	13	1	7	29
13	KERALA	53	15	17	4	10	46
14	MADHYA PRADESH	17	10	20	6	9	45
15	MAHARASHTRA	8	9	10	0	0	19
16	MANIPUR	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
17	MEGHALAYA	0	0	0	0	0	0
18	MIZORAM	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
19	NAGALAND	0	0	0	0	0	0
20	ORISSA	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
21	PUNJAB	9	1	4	2	2	9
22	RAJASTHAN	44	15	38	21	23	97
23	SIKKIM	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
24	TAMIL NADU	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
25	TRIPURA	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
26	UTTAR PRADESH	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
27	UTTARANCHAL	2	0	2	2	1	5
28	WEST BENGAL	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
	TOTAL (STATES)	195	101	152	45	68	366
UNION TERRITORIES:							
29	A & N ISLANDS	0	0	0	0	0	0
30	CHANDIGARH	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
31	D & N HAVELI	0	0	0	0	0	0
32	DAMAN & DIU	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
33	DELHI (UT)	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
34	LAKSHADWEEP	0	0	0	0	0	0
35	PONDICHERRY	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
	TOTAL (UTs)	0	0	0	0	0	0
	TOTAL (ALL INDIA)	195	101	152	45	68	366

Table - 2 (C) (Concluded)
State/UT/City wise Distribution of Family Suicides During 2004

Sl. No.	City	No. Of Cases	Adults		Minor*		Total
			Male	Female	Male	Female	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
CITIES:							
36	AGRA	23	14	8	6	4	32
37	AHMEDABAD	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
38	ALLAHABAD	0	0	0	0	0	0
39	AMRITSAR	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
40	ASANSOL	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
41	BANGALORE	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
42	BHOPAL	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
43	CHENNAI	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
44	COIMBATORE	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
45	DELHI (CITY)	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
46	DHANBAD	0	0	0	0	0	0
47	FARIDABAD	0	0	0	0	0	0
48	HYDERABAD	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
49	INDORE	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
50	JABALPUR	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
51	JAIPUR	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
52	JAMSHEDPUR	0	0	0	0	0	0
53	KANPUR	0	0	0	0	0	0
54	KOCHI	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
55	KOLKATA	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
56	LUCKNOW	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
57	LUDHIANA	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
58	MADURAI	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
59	MEERUT	0	0	0	0	0	0
60	MUMBAI	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
61	NAGPUR	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
62	NASIK	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
63	PATNA	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
64	PUNE	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
65	RAJKOT	4	1	3	4	3	11
66	SURAT	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
67	VADODARA	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
68	VARANASI	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
69	VIJAYAWADA	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
70	VISHAKHAPATNAM	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
TOTAL (CITIES)		27	15	11	10	7	43

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

* Below 18 years of age.

Table — 2 (D)
States/UTs with Higher Suicide Rate During 2002 To 2004

		Year			
2002		2003		2004	
Pondicherry	(57.2)	Pondicherry	57.9	Pondicherry	53.6
A&N Islands	(39.5)	A & N Islands	30.3	A & N Islands	32.7
Kerala	(30.4)	Kerala	28.9	Kerala	27.8
Tripura	(24.0)	Tripura	25.6	Tripura	23.4
Karnataka	(22.9)	Karnataka	22.7	Karnataka	22.0
National Rate	(10.5)	National Rate	(10.4)	National Rate	(10.6)

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

Causes of Suicides

'Illness' and 'Family Problems' accounting for nearly 22 per cent each, were the major causes of suicides among the specified causes. 'Love Affairs' (3.3%), 'Poverty' (3.0%)

and 'Bankruptcy' (2.7%) were the other causes driving towards suicides.

Suicides due to 'Bankruptcy', 'Dowry disputes', 'Drug Abuse/Addiction', 'Poverty', 'Professional/Career Problems' and 'Property Disputes' have shown an increasing trend during last 3 years. Suicides due to 'Suspected/Illicit Relations, 'Cancellation/Non-settlement of marriage' and 'Barrenness/Impotency' have shown a declining trend during last 3 years [Table-2(E)].

Figure 2.5

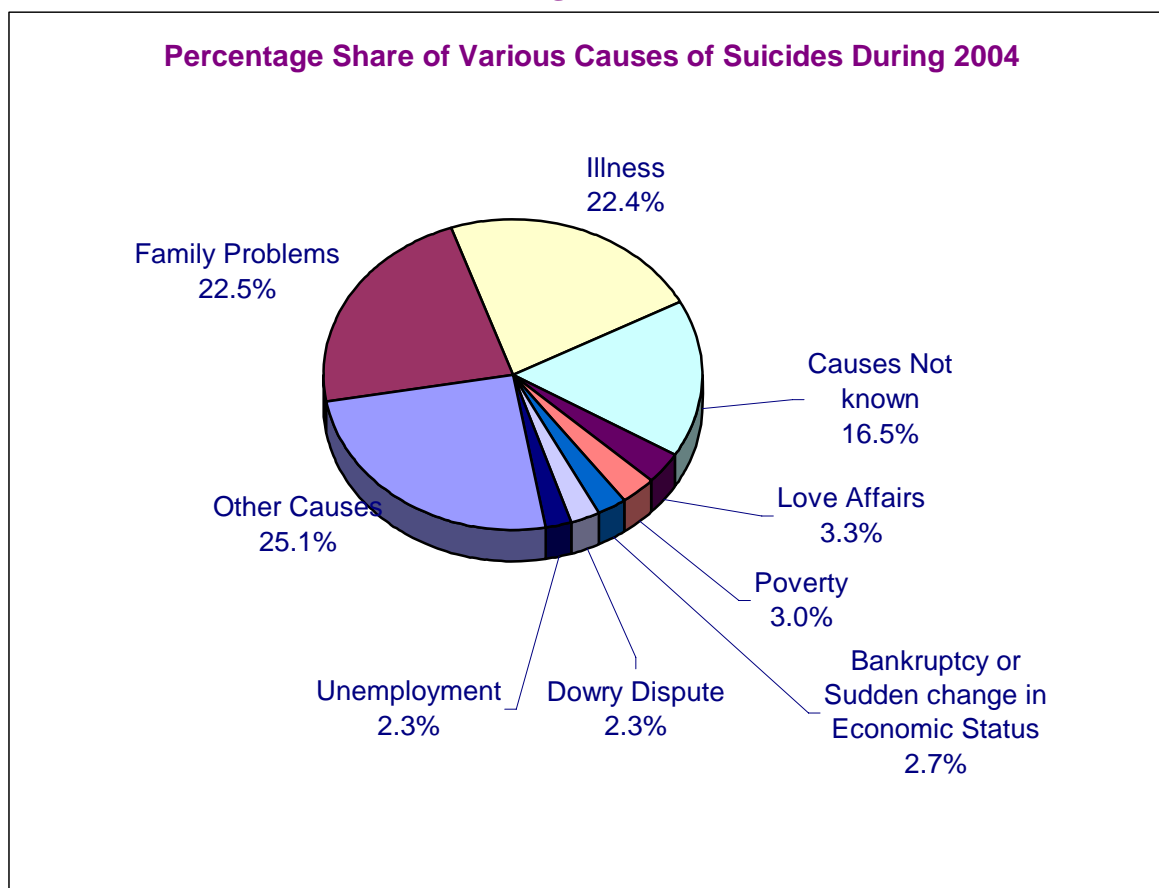


Table - 2 (E)
Suicides and their Share by Causes During 2002 – 2004 (All India)

Sl. No.	Cause	2002		2003		2004		% Variation 2004 Over 2003
		Suicides	% Share	Suicides	% Share	Suicides	% Share	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
1	Bankruptcy or Sudden change in Economic Status	2655	2.4	2866	2.6	3063	2.7	6.9
2	Suspected/Illicit Relation	1358	1.2	1291	1.2	1216	1.1	-5.8
3	Cancellation/Non-Settlement of Marriage	963	0.9	933	0.8	762	0.7	-18.3
4	Not having Children(Barrenness/Impotency)	766	0.7	732	0.7	694	0.6	-5.2
5	Illness	25966	23.5	24894	22.5	25452	22.4	2.2
	(i) (AIDS/STD)	688	0.6	769	0.7	668	0.6	-13.1
	(ii) Cancer	894	0.8	652	0.6	822	0.7	26.1
	(iii) Paralysis	648	0.6	514	0.5	504	0.4	-1.9
	(iv) Insanity/Mental Illness	6440	5.8	7323	6.6	7117	6.3	-2.8
	(v) Other Prolonged Illness	17296	15.7	15636	14.1	16341	14.4	4.5
6	Death of Dear Person	701	0.6	1010	0.9	749	0.7	-25.8
7	Dowry Dispute	2410	2.2	2447	2.2	2638	2.3	7.8
8	Divorce	348	0.3	308	0.3	367	0.3	19.2
9	Drug Abuse/Addiction	1709	1.5	1763	1.6	1927	1.7	9.3
10	Failure in Examination	2250	2.0	2255	2.0	2496	2.2	10.7
11	Fall in Social Reputation	874	0.8	912	0.8	710	0.6	-22.1
12	Family Problems	25085	22.7	26308	23.7	25531	22.5	-3.0
13	Ideological Causes/Hero Worshipping	87	0.1	242	0.2	81	0.1	-66.5
14	Illegitimate Pregnancy	267	0.2	249	0.2	204	0.2	-18.1
15	Love Affairs	3101	2.8	3996	3.6	3799	3.3	-4.9
16	Physical Abuse (Rape, Incest etc.)	430	0.4	503	0.5	306	0.3	-39.2
17	Poverty	2448	2.2	2671	2.4	3403	3.0	27.4
18	Professional/Career Problem	971	0.9	1008	0.9	1032	0.9	2.4
19	Property Dispute	1253	1.1	1515	1.4	1689	1.5	11.5
20	Unemployment	2249	2.0	2516	2.3	2571	2.3	2.2
21	Causes Not known	19706	17.8	17631	15.9	18812	16.5	6.7
22	Other Causes	14820	13.4	14801	13.4	16195	14.2	9.4
23	Total	110417	100.0	110851	100.0	113697	100.0	2.6

The number of suicides due to 'Poverty' showed a significant increase of 27.4 per cent as compared to previous year, followed by 'Divorce' (19.2%), 'Property Dispute' (11.5%), 'Failure in Examination' (10.7%), Drug Abuse/Addiction (9.3%), Dowry Dispute (7.8%) and 'Bankruptcy' (6.9%).

State, UT and City-wise details on various causes of 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)**.

Table – 2 (F)
States & UTs reporting higher share of Suicides due to Illness and Family Problems During 2004

Illness				Family Problems			
All India % Share							
22.4				22.5			
Sl. No.	State/UT	Suicides	% age Share	Sl. No.	State/UT	Suicides	% age Share
1	Sikkim	50	51.0	1	Pondicherry	221	41.0
2	Punjab	271	42.0	2	Bihar	140	39.9
3	A & N Islands	48	39.3	3	Maharashtra	4957	33.7
4	D & N Haveli	14	35.9	4	Tamil Nadu	4060	31.6
5	Pondicherry	187	34.7	5	Tripura	229	29.7
6	Maharashtra	4948	33.6	6	Sikkim	29	29.6
7	Kerala	2821	31.2	7	Himachal Pradesh	99	26.7
8	Andhra Pradesh	3881	28.7	8	Orissa	1083	25.7
9	Karnataka	3356	28.1	9	Uttaranchal	58	24.5
10	Gujarat	1163	24.4	10	Rajasthan	899	24.1
11	Tamil Nadu	3041	23.7	11	Delhi (UT)	298	23.7
12	Goa	74	23.6				

Twelve States/UTs have reported higher percentage share than the All India average in suicides with causes such as 'Illness'. While Sikkim (51.0%) and Punjab (42.0%) reported almost 1 out of 2 suicides due to illness, A & N Islands (39.3%), D & N Haveli (35.9%) Pondicherry (34.7%) and Maharashtra (33.6%) have reported at least 1 out of 3 suicides due to 'illness' alone.

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 which reported the higher share of suicides due to 'Family problems' after Pondicherry (41%), were Bihar (39.9%), Maharashtra (33.7%) and Tamil Nadu (31.6%). 9.8% suicides in Kerala were due to 'Bankruptcy or Sudden change in Economic Status'. 20.7% in Punjab and 29.6% suicides

in Sikkim were due to 'Insanity / Mental Illness'. Similarly, 9.3% in Uttar Pradesh and 9.2% suicides in Madhya Pradesh were due to 'Dowry Dispute'. 16.7% suicides in Mizoram were due to 'Drug Abuse / Addiction'. 9.3% Suicides in Chandigarh were due to 'Failure in Examination' while 41.1% suicides in Pondicherry were due to 'Family Problem'. 15.6% suicides in Assam were due to 'Love Affairs' and 8.8% suicides were due to 'Unemployment'.

Suicide Victims by Sex and Age Group

The overall male : female ratio of suicide victims for the year 2004 was 64 : 36, however, the proportion of Boys : Girls suicide victims (upto 14 years of age) was 50 : 50 i.e. 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' (98.0%), 'Illegitimate Pregnancy' (94.6%), 'Physical Abuse' (67%), Divorce (65.9%), 'Cancellation/Non-settlement of marriage' (57.9%) and 'Suspected Illicit Relation' (54.5%). 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 middle-aged people (30-44 years) were the prime groups taking recourse to the path of suicides. Around 35.3 per cent were youths in the age group of 15-29 years and 33.7 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' (456), 'Family Problems' (386) and 'Illness' (346) were the main cause of suicides among children (2,913). 'Family Problems' have driven 9,108 youths, 9,355 lower middle aged people and 5,142 upper

middle aged persons to commit suicide. Nearly 40.1 (3697 out of 9213) per cent of suicides due to 'Illness' were committed by Senior citizens (above 60 years & above) Senior citizens have accounted for 8.1 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 19.7 per cent (573 out of 2,913) of children (upto 14 years) who committed suicides belonged to West Bengal. 19.0 per cent (1,749 out of 9,213) senior citizens (above 60 years) belonged to Kerala.

69.2 per cent (9 out of 13) victims in Daman and Diu were young (15-29 years) as compared to the national average of 35.3 per cent. 48.4% of the victims (15 out of 31) were middle aged (30-44 years) in Nagaland against the national average of 33.7%.

Figure 2.6

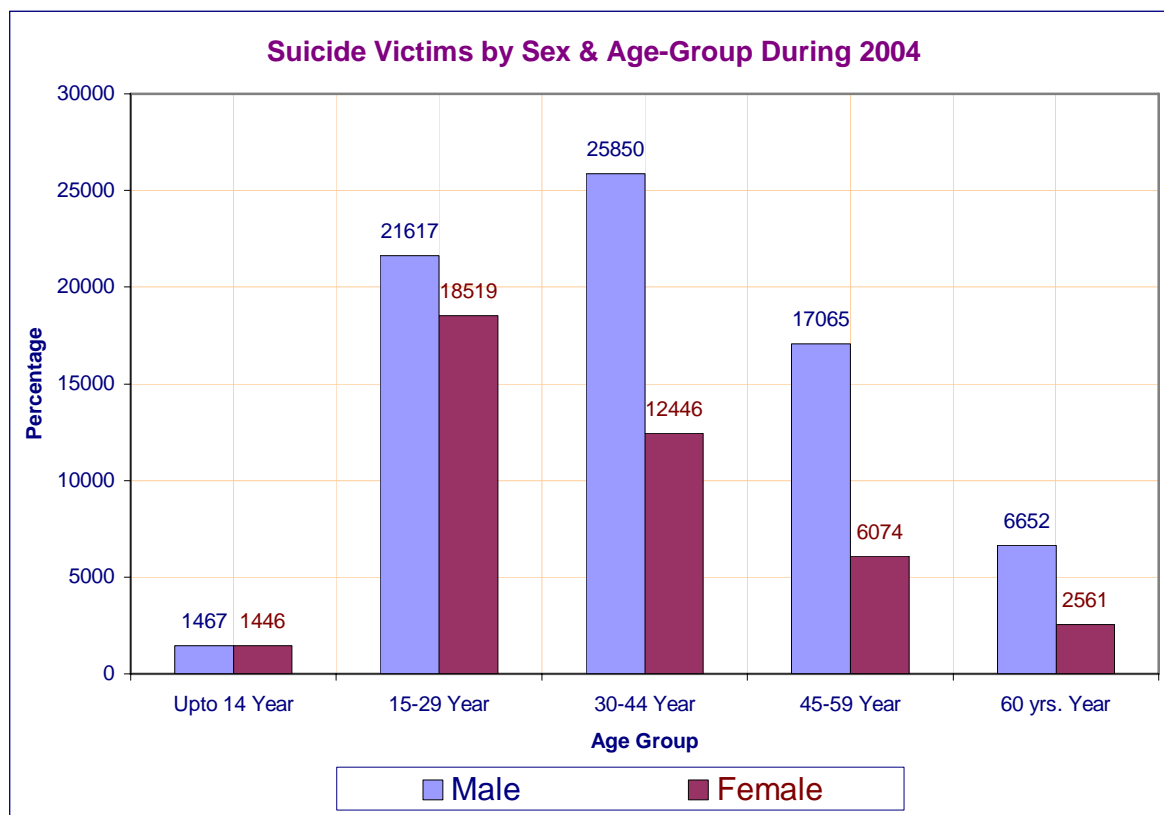


Table – 2 (G)
Distribution of Suicides by Causes and Sex
(Age-Group-wise) during 2004

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	12	8	20	435	97	532	1161	141	1302
2	Suspected/Illicit Relation	2	6	8	287	403	690	211	214	425
3	Cancellation/Non-Settlement of Marriage	2	1	3	197	350	547	103	86	189
4	Barrenness/Impotency (Not having Children)	1	1	2	50	202	252	95	235	330
5	Illness	160	186	346	3842	2871	6713	5434	2766	8200
	(i) AIDS/STD	3	7	10	129	93	222	213	80	293
	(ii) Cancer	0	0	0	54	28	82	178	70	248
	(iii) Paralysis	4	2	6	30	51	81	68	51	119
	(iv) Insanity/Mental Illness	66	57	123	1253	803	2056	1588	826	2414
	(v) Other Prolonged Illness	87	120	207	2376	1896	4272	3387	1739	5126
6	Death of Dear Person	7	10	17	127	114	241	138	94	232
7	Dowry Dispute	0	10	10	27	2010	2037	17	533	550
8	Divorce	0	0	0	35	129	164	62	99	161
9	Drug Abuse/Addiction	7	0	7	452	37	489	831	34	865
10	Failure in Examination	223	233	456	1058	773	1831	136	51	187
11	Social Disrepute	4	5	9	176	94	270	179	68	247
12	Family Problems	192	194	386	4448	4660	9108	5956	3399	9355
13	Ideological Causes/Hero Worshipping	1	2	3	13	20	33	22	9	31
14	Illegitimate Pregnancy	0	6	6	5	121	126	4	61	65
15	Love Affairs	22	58	80	1398	1248	2646	541	444	985
16	Physical Abuse (Rape, Incest etc.)	0	1	1	41	112	153	39	71	110
17	Poverty	10	14	24	575	233	808	974	316	1290
18	Professional/Career Problem	0	1	1	259	49	308	369	57	426
19	Property Dispute	14	0	14	271	142	413	490	163	653
20	Unemployment	1	0	1	983	167	1150	840	190	1030
21	Causes Not Known	342	316	658	3865	2519	6384	4515	1858	6373
22	Other Causes	467	394	861	3073	2168	5241	3733	1557	5290
	Total	1467	1446	2913	21617	18519	40136	25850	12446	38296

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	896	90	986	201	22	223	2705	358	3063
2	Suspected/Illicit Relation	50	39	89	3	1	4	553	663	1216
3	Cancellation/Non-Settlement of Marriage	18	4	22	1	0	1	321	441	762
4	Barrenness/Impotency (Not having Children)	51	51	102	6	2	8	203	491	694
5	Illness	4530	1966	6496	2620	1077	3697	16586	8866	25452
	(i) AIDS/STD	75	24	99	34	10	44	454	214	668
	(ii) Cancer	195	108	303	136	53	189	563	259	822
	(iii) Paralysis	117	41	158	104	36	140	323	181	504
	(iv) Insanity/Mental Illness	1203	538	1741	551	232	783	4661	2456	7117
	(v) Other Prolonged Illness	2940	1255	4195	1795	746	2541	10585	5756	16341
6	Death of Dear Person	106	58	164	64	31	95	442	307	749
7	Dowry Dispute	7	32	39	2	0	2	53	2585	2638
8	Divorce	26	14	40	2	0	2	125	242	367
9	Drug Abuse/Addiction	458	11	469	95	2	97	1843	84	1927
10	Failure in Examination	17	3	20	2	0	2	1436	1060	2496
11	Social Disrepute	108	32	140	39	5	44	506	204	710
12	Family Problems	3672	1470	5142	1056	484	1540	15324	10207	25531
13	Ideological Causes/Hero Worshipping	7	0	7	6	1	7	49	32	81
14	Illegitimate Pregnancy	2	5	7	0	0	0	11	193	204
15	Love Affairs	55	31	86	2	0	2	2018	1781	3799
16	Physical Abuse (Rape Incest etc.)	11	17	28	10	4	14	101	205	306
17	Poverty	766	224	990	214	77	291	2539	864	3403
18	Professional/Career Problem	224	31	255	38	4	42	890	142	1032
19	Property Dispute	336	125	461	118	30	148	1229	460	1689
20	Unemployment	302	61	363	25	2	27	2151	420	2571
21	Causes Not Known	2947	900	3847	1162	388	1550	12831	5981	18812
22	Other Causes	2476	910	3386	986	431	1417	10735	5460	16195
	Total	17065	6074	23139	6652	2561	9213	72651	41046	113697

Professional Status of Suicide Victims

Information regarding professional status of suicide victims is presented in **Table-2.6**. Housewives (23,170) accounted for 56.4 per cent of the total female victims which are nearly 36.0 per cent of total victims committing suicides. Government servants were merely 1.6 per cent of the total suicide victims.

Private and Public Sector personnel have accounted for 6.8 per cent and 1.9 per cent of the total suicide victims respectively, whereas students and un-employed victims accounted for 4.9 per cent and 8.4 per cent respectively. **Self employed category accounted for 40.6% of victims. It comprised of 16.0 per cent engaged in Farming / Agriculture activities, 5.1 per cent engaged in Business and 2.4 per cent Professionals.**

State/UT-wise and Profession wise analysis (**Table-2.11**) of suicide victims reveals that Housewives have accounted for 41.0 per cent of suicide victims in D&N Haveli. 29.3% victims in Manipur were Government servants and 24.4% victims were Students. A & N Islands has reported 30.3% per cent victims who were privately employed. 35.0 per cent of victims in Mizoram were Unemployed, while 50.0% victims in Sikkim were employed in Farming / Agricultural activities.

Age-wise profile of professional status of victims during the year shows that nearly 45.9 per cent of 'Housewives', 41.4 per cent 'Unemployed' and 73.4 per cent of Students who had committed suicides during 2004 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 70.1 per cent of the suicide victims were married while 21.6 per cent were un-married. Divorcees and Separatees have accounted for about 4.1 per cent of the total suicide victims. The proportion of Widow & Widower victims was around 4.2 per cent.

The State/UT-wise distribution of suicide victims by Marital Status is presented in **Table-2.12**. It was observed that 51.2 per cent of victims in Manipur, 48.4 per cent in Nagaland and 43.6% in Meghalaya were unmarried against 21.6 per cent at National level. 99.0 per cent of victims in Sikkim, 84.6% (only 2 suicides) victims in D & N Haveli and 78.6% victims in Haryana on the contrary were married against the National average of 70.1 per cent.

Educational Status of Suicide Victims

The sex-wise and education-wise break-up of suicide victims is presented in **Table – 2.8**. illiterate and middle educated suicide victims accounted for 23.7 per cent suicide victims and 23.5 per cent respectively. Only 2.3 per cent suicide victims were graduates and post-graduates. 56.4% suicide victims in D&N Haveli, 36.8% in Bihar were illiterate. 38.5 per cent (only 5) victims in Daman & Diu and 37.7 per cent in Gujarat had education upto primary level and 45.9 per cent victims in Sikkim and 45% victims in Mizoram had middle level education (**Table-2.13**).

Figure 2.7

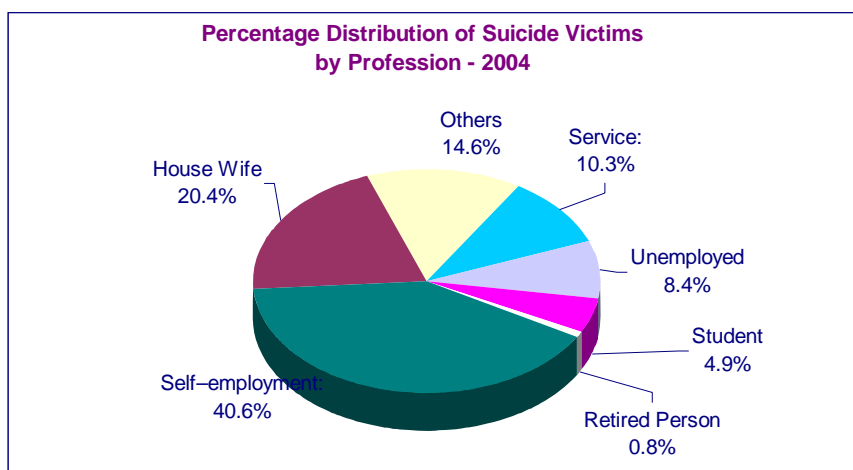


Figure 2.8

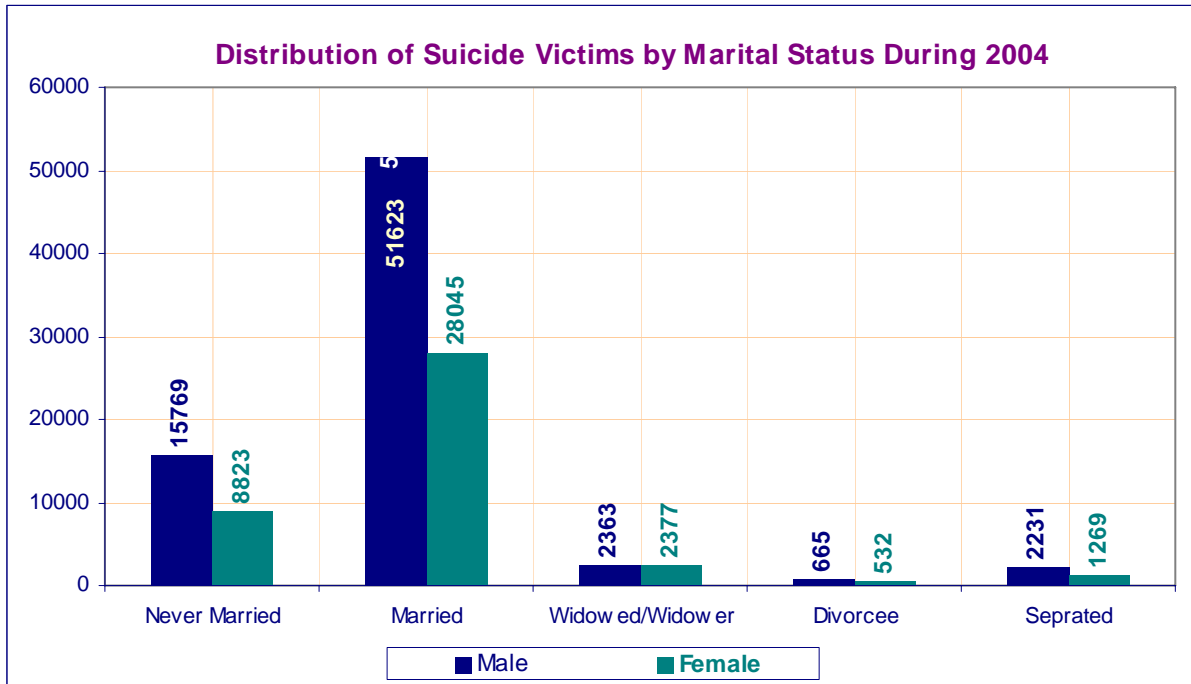


Figure 2.9

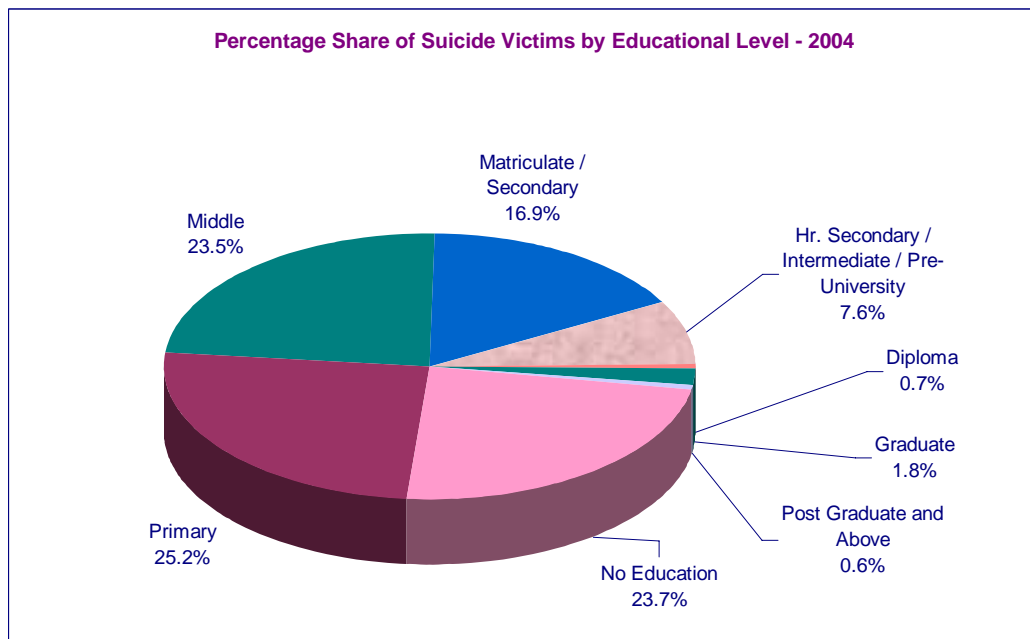


Table – 2 (H)

Percentage of Suicide Victims by Educational Level – 2002-2004

Sl.No.	Educational Level	Percentage Share		
		2002	2003	2004
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
1	No Education	25.8	23.4	23.7
2	Primary	25.4	26.2	25.2
3	Middle (Secondary)	23.1	23.0	23.5
4	Matriculate	16.2	16.7	16.9
5	Higher Secondary	6.5	7.5	7.6
6	Diploma	1.0	0.8	0.7
7	Graduate	1.6	1.9	1.8
8	Post-Graduate & above	0.4	0.4	0.6
	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, etc. to more painful means such as self inflicted

injuries, hanging, shooting, etc. Suicide by Consuming Poison (37.5%), Hanging (31.2%), Self Immolation (7.6%) and Drowning (6.3%) were the prominent means of committing suicides (Table–2.9) as in past.

Table – 2 (I)

Percentage share of the Means adopted in Committing Suicides during 2002 – 2004

Sl. No.	Means Adopted	% Share		
		2002	2003	2004
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
1	Alcoholism	1.2	1.0	0.9
2	Drowning	7.4	7.2	6.3
3	Fire/self immolation	9.6	9.4	7.6
4	Fire arms	0.4	0.5	0.4
5	Hanging	28.4	29.4	31.2
6	Poisoning	37.6	38.8	37.5
	i) Consumption of insecticides	19.4	20.7	20.5
	ii) Other poisons	17.8	17.7	16.7
7	Self infliction of injury	0.5	0.4	0.3
8	Jumping from	1.3	1.1	0.9
	i) Buildings	0.6	0.6	0.4
	ii) Other sites	0.7	0.5	0.5
9	Jumping off from moving vehicles/trains	0.5	0.4	0.5
10	Machine	0.2	0.1	0.1
11	Over dose of sleeping pills	0.9	1.2	0.9
12	Self electrocution	0.6	0.7	0.9
13	Coming under running vehicles/train	3.4	2.7	2.7
14	Other means	8.4	7.4	9.8
	Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Sufficiently large number of victims who terminated their lives by hanging have been reported from Mizoram (88.3%), A&N Islands (86.1%), Arunachal Pradesh (77.2%) and Sikkim (72.4%). Share of suicides by 'Drowning',

'Poisoning' and 'Self Immolation' have come down to 6.3%, 37.5% and 7.6% in 2004 from 7.2%, 38.4%, and 9.4% respectively in 2003. The State/UT's share of suicides by 'Hanging' and 'Poisoning' is presented in Table-2(J).

Table – 2 (J)
Percentage share of Suicides Committed
by Consumption of Poison and Hanging–2004

Consumption of Poison				By Hanging			
All-India Share (37.5%)				All-India Share(31.2%)			
Sl. No.	States/UTs	Cases	% share	Sl. No.	States/UTs	Cases	% share
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
1.	Himachal Pradesh	230	62.0	1.	Mizoram	53	88.3
2.	Andhra Pradesh	7108	52.6	2.	A & N Islands	105	86.1
3.	Uttaranchal	102	43.0	3.	Arunachal Pradesh	61	77.2
4.	Maharashtra	6291	42.7	4.	Sikkim	71	72.4
5.	Gujarat	2000	41.9	5.	Daman & Diu	9	69.2
6.	Tamil Nadu	5149	40.1	6.	Pondicherry	354	65.7
7.	Orissa	1657	39.3	7.	Chandigarh	46	61.3
8.	Bihar	133	37.9	8.	Meghalaya	33	60.0
				9.	D & N Haveli	23	59.0
				10.	Delhi (Ut)	683	54.4
				11.	Goa	159	50.6
				12.	Assam	1399	49.3
				13.	Manipur	20	48.8
				14.	Kerala	4312	47.6
				15.	Chhattisgarh	2014	44.8
				16.	Madhya Pradesh	2527	37.2
				17.	Tripura	272	35.3
				18.	West Bengal	4339	32.3
				19.	Maharashtra	4604	31.3

Table – 2 (K)

Distribution of Age-group wise & Sex wise Suicides Classified according to Means Adopted during 2004

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	1	2	171	8	179	419	16	435
2	Drowning	233	156	389	1247	1148	2395	1460	905	2365
3	Fire/Self Immolation	61	145	206	872	2882	3754	1050	1834	2884
4	Fire-Arms	5	4	9	110	71	181	162	40	202
5	Hanging	319	315	634	7228	5494	12722	8810	3567	12377
6	Poisoning	390	545	935	8630	6929	15559	9639	4460	14099
	(i) Consumption of Insecticides	190	273	463	4866	3854	8720	5394	2322	7716
	(ii) Consumption of other Poison	197	271	468	3689	3027	6716	4173	2102	6275
7	Self Infliction of injury	3	1	4	75	48	123	72	36	108
8	Jumping	31	15	46	227	106	333	292	82	374
	(i) From Building	9	4	13	81	49	130	119	33	152
	(ii) From Other sites	22	11	33	146	57	203	173	49	222
9	Jumping off Moving Vehicles/Trains	5	5	10	173	29	202	193	39	232
10	By Machine	2	0	2	30	3	33	39	3	42
11	Overdose of sleeping pills	7	4	11	171	151	322	185	123	308
12	Self-electrocution	20	13	33	276	95	371	307	88	395
13	Coming under running vehicles/trains	22	9	31	661	222	883	930	217	1147
14	Other means	371	234	605	1821	1381	3202	2364	1072	3436
15	Total	1467	1446	2913	21617	18519	40136	25850	12446	38296
	Percentage	1.3	1.3	2.6	19.0	16.3	35.3	22.7	10.9	33.7

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	357	8	365	87	2	89	1035	35	1070	96.7
2	Drowning	880	477	1357	351	344	695	4171	3030	7201	57.9
3	Fire/Self Immolation	628	739	1367	193	293	486	2804	5893	8697	32.2
4	Fire-Arms	65	22	87	22	2	24	364	139	503	72.4
5	Hanging	5560	1503	7063	2103	600	2703	24020	11479	35499	67.7
6	Poisoning	6359	2300	8659	2511	873	3384	27529	15107	42636	64.6
	(i) Consumption of insecticides	3431	1142	4573	1329	510	1839	15210	8101	23311	65.2
	(ii) Consumption of other Poison	2878	1149	4027	1171	360	1531	12108	6909	19017	63.7
7	Self Infliction of injury	50	9	59	11	3	14	211	97	308	68.5
8	Jumping	159	38	197	54	9	63	763	250	1013	75.3
	(i) From Building	63	17	80	22	4	26	294	107	401	73.3
	(ii) From Other sites	96	21	117	32	5	37	469	143	612	76.6
9	Jumping off Moving Vehicles/Trains	124	13	137	35	3	38	530	89	619	85.6
10	By Machine	22	3	25	3	0	3	96	9	105	91.4
11	Overdose of sleeping pills	167	93	260	94	26	120	624	397	1021	61.1
12	Self electrocution	171	32	203	36	9	45	810	237	1047	77.4
13	Coming under running vehicles/trains	578	117	695	270	76	346	2461	641	3102	79.3
14	Other means	1995	729	2724	893	324	1217	7444	3740	11184	66.6
15	Total	17065	6074	23139	6652	2561	9213	72651	41046	113697	63.9
	Percentage	15.0	5.3	20.4	5.9	2.3	8.1	63.9	36.1	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 (67.8%).

2.9 per cent suicides in Sikkim were committed by 'Over Alcoholism' besides Poisoning and Hanging. 'Drowning' was major means of suicides in Goa accounting for 19.7 per cent of total suicides. 'Fire/Self immolation' was the major means in Gujarat accounting for 17.3 per cent such deaths. 9.8% and 7.0% suicides were committed by 'Jumping' and 'by Overdose of Sleeping Pills' in Jharkhand. 19.5% suicides

were by 'Fire Arm' in Manipur, while 14.8% Suicides in Haryana were committed by self electrocution.

Suicides in Cities

The number of suicides in 34 mega cities have reported a continuous increase during the year

2001 to 2003. There was a decline of 2.6% during 2004 as compared to only 5.1 per cent increase at National Level. The rate of suicides has been hovering around 10 during last few years. It has decrease from 11.1% in 2003 to 10.9% during 2004.

Table — 2 (L)

Year	Suicides in Cities	Cities share to All India	Rate in Cities	% Variation over previous year (incidence)
2000	9794	9.0	9.9	- 3.6
2001	11414	10.5	10.6	16.5
2002	11439	10.4	10.6	0.2
2003	12020	10.8	11.1	5.1
2004	11708	10.3	10.9	- 2.6

The four Metropolitan Cities—Bangalore (1,528), Chennai (1,196), Mumbai (1106) and Delhi (967) have reported higher number of Suicides. These four cities together have reported 41% of the total suicides reported from

34 mega cities. Allahabad city reported abrupt high increase from 64 cases in 2003 to 86 cases in 2004. Patna city has reported a decline of 63.2 per cent over 2003.

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 2004)		Share in total suicides reported in	
		Cities	All-India	Cities	All-India
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
1.	Family Problems	3105	25531	26.5	22.5
2.	Total Illness	2368	25452	20.2	22.4
3.	Unemployment	542	2571	4.6	2.3
4.	Poverty	406	3403	3.5	3.0
5.	Love Affairs	377	3799	3.2	3.3
6.	Failure in Examination	276	2496	2.4	2.2
7.	Dowry Dispute	265	2638	2.3	2.3
8.	Drug Abuse/Addiction	252	1927	2.2	1.7
9.	Bankruptcy Or Sudden Change in Economic Status	251	3063	2.1	2.7
Total		11708	113697	100.0	100.0

The suicide rate in cities (10.9) was higher as compared to All-India suicide rate (10.6). Jabalpur and Rajkot city have reported the highest rate of 39.1 and 30.6 respectively and Patna city, the lowest rate at 0.8% only among 34 cities.

Nearly 4.6 per cent of suicides were committed due to 'Unemployment' as against 2.3 per cent of such suicides at National level as per causal analysis of suicides in cities. Similarly, the share of suicides due to 'Family problem', '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 Amritsar which took nearly half of all the lives (53.1%) claimed by suicides. Similarly, the Family problem was the major cause of suicides in Hyderabad (49.7%), Kanpur (49.4%), Nagpur (45.1%) and Allahabad (44.2%). 'Bankruptcy or sudden change in Economic status' (11.9%) and 'Love Affairs' (21.4%) was the major cause in Faridabad city. 'Insanity / Mental Illness' (36.4%) and 'Poverty' (28.9%) was the major cause of Suicides in Madurai. 'Insanity / Mental Illness' (32.4%) and 'Drug Abuse/Addiction' (8.8%) was the major cause of suicides in Ludhiana city. 18.4% suicides were committed due to 'Dowry Dispute' in Kolkata. 11.7% suicides were committed due to 'Unemployment' in Kanpur.

11.1 per cent suicide victims were Government Employees in Meerut while 34.6% were Private Employees in Surat. 28.6 per cent suicide victims were engaged in Farming / agriculture Activity in Patna. 24.7 per cent victims were un-employed in Kanpur. Persons engaged in Professional activities have constituted 14.3 per cent victims in Rajkot. 43.5% suicides were committed by house

wives in Dhanbad. 19.7% per cent suicide victims were self employed in business activities in Asansol.

'Education Profile' of suicide victims revealed that more than half of victims in Rajkot (58.3%) and Surat (49.4%) were educated upto 'Primary level' and 75.0 per cent in Amritsar had education upto matriculation level. 34.5% in Coimbatore, 34.4% in Vijayawada, 34.3% in Asansol, 34.2% victims in Vishakhapatanam were educated upto Middle level. Nearly half (47.2%) of victims in Meerut and Ludhiana (44.1%) were uneducated. 36.4% Suicide victims were educated upto Higher Secondary / Intermediate level in Dhanbad.

The pattern of suicides reported from 34 cities showed that 'Hanging' (41.6%), 'Poisoning' (25.1%) and 'Self Immolation' (14.4%) were the prominent means adopted by the suicide victims in the cities. 'Hanging' claimed nearly three-fourth (76.2%) of suicides in Faridabad. Nearly 51.5 per cent victims consumed insecticides in Indore, 34.9 per cent victims immolated themselves in Rajkot. 19.6 per cent suicides were committed by 'Drowning' in Nagpur and 8.3% suicides were committed by 'Overdose of Alcohol' in Meerut.
