

## CHAPTER – 2

### SUICIDES IN INDIA

Each suicide is a personal tragedy that prematurely takes the life of an individual and has a continuing ripple effect, affecting the lives of families, friends and communities. Every year, more than 1,00,000 people commit suicide in our country. There are various causes of suicides like professional/career problems, sense of isolation, abuse, violence, family problems, mental disorders, addiction to alcohol, financial loss, chronic pain etc. NCRB collects data on suicides from police recorded suicide cases.

Rate of suicides has been calculated using projected population for the non-census years whereas for the census year 2011, the population in the Census 2011 Report was used.

A total of 1,53,052 suicides were reported in the country during 2020 showing an increase of 10.0% in comparison to 2019 and the rate of suicides has increased by 8.7% during 2020 over 2019. **[LIST–2.1]** The incidence and rate of suicides during 2010-2020 is presented in **Table-2.1**.

#### LIST–2.1

#### Number of Suicides, Growth of Population and Rate of Suicides during 2016 - 2020

Sl. No.	Year	Total Number of Suicides	Mid-Year Projected Population (in Lakh <sup>+</sup> )	Rate of Suicides (Col.3/Col.4)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
1	2016	1,31,008	12,739.9	10.3
2	2017	1,29,887	13091.6 <sup>#</sup>	9.9
3	2018	1,34,516	13233.8 <sup>#</sup>	10.2
4	2019	1,39,123	13376.1 <sup>#</sup>	10.4
5	<b>2020</b>	<b>1,53,052</b>	<b>13533.9<sup>\$</sup></b>	<b>11.3</b>

\* Source: The Registrar General of India.

# Source: Report of the Technical Group on Population Projections (November, 2019), National Commission on Population, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.

\$ Source: Report of the Technical Group on Population Projections (July, 2020), National Commission on Population, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare

+ One Lakh = 0.1 Million

\*\*\* Rate of Suicides = Incidence of suicides per one lakh (1,00,000) of population.

As per data provided by States/UTs

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

The State/UT and City wise information on the incidents of suicides, its percentage share in total suicides and rate of suicides during the year are presented in **Table-2.2**.

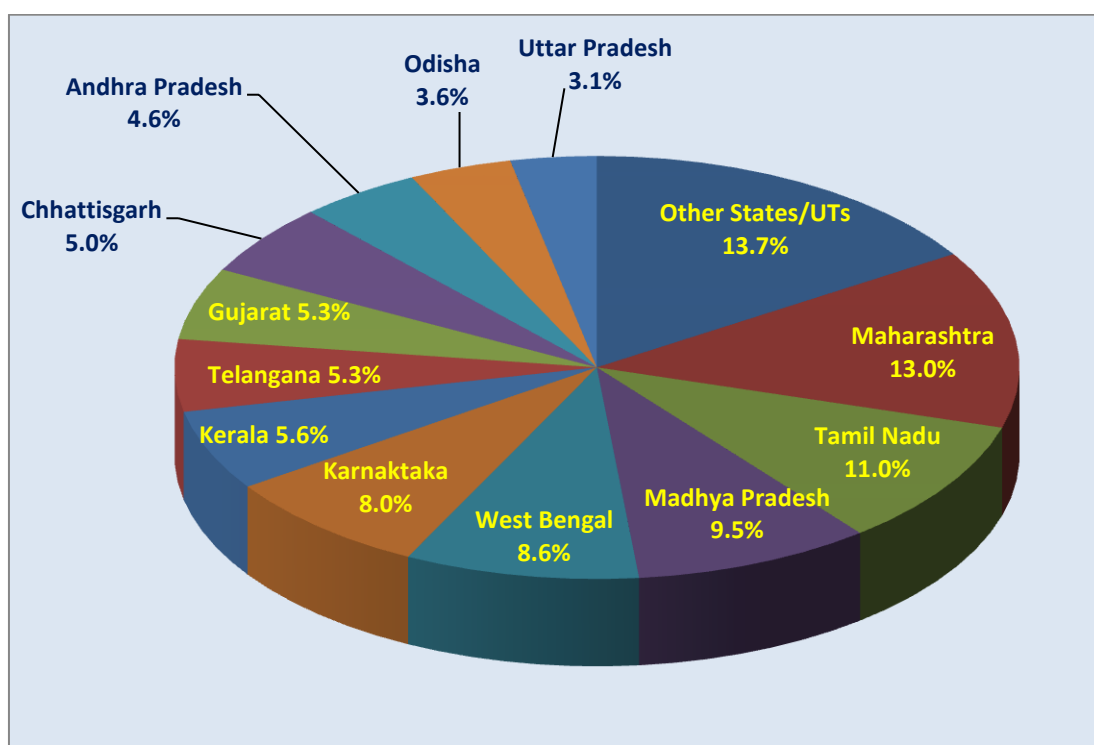
Majority of suicides were reported in Maharashtra (19,909) followed by 16,883 suicides in Tamil Nadu, 14,578 suicides in Madhya Pradesh, 13,103 suicides in West Bengal and 12,259 suicides in Karnataka accounting for 13.0%, 11.0%, 9.5%, 8.6% and 8.0% of total suicides respectively. These 5 States together accounted for 50.1% of the total suicides reported in the country. The remaining 49.9% suicides were reported in

the remaining 23 States and 8 UTs. Uttar Pradesh, the most populous State (16.9% share of country population) has reported comparatively lower percentage share of suicidal deaths, accounting for only 3.1% of the total suicides reported in the country.

The States which have witnessed significantly higher number of suicidal deaths during the year 2018 to 2020 are presented in the **LIST-2.2**. Each of these States have continuously accounted for about 8.0% or more of the total suicides reported in the country from 2018 to 2020.

**FIGURE-2.1**

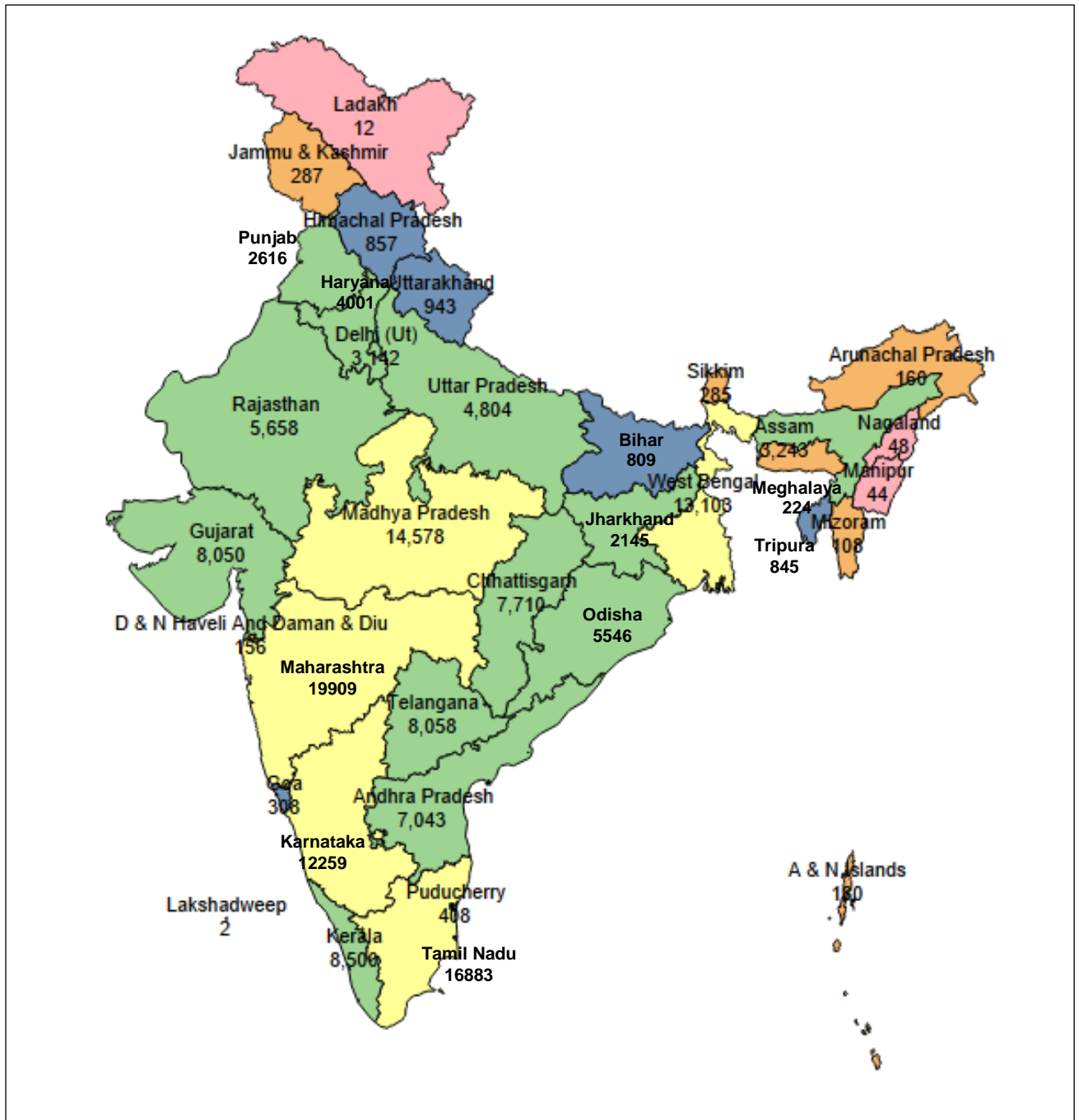
### State/UT wise Major Percentage Share of Suicides in States during 2020



- As per data provided by States/UTs.

**Note:** OTHER STATES/UTs include Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Goa, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, Meghalaya, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tripura, Uttarakhand, A & N Island, Chandigarh, D & N Haveli & Daman & Diu, Jammu & Kashmir, Delhi, Ladakh, Lakshadweep and Puducherry

**FIGURE-2.2**  
**STATE/UT – WISE TOTAL NUMBER OF SUICIDES DURING 2020**



• As per data provided by States/UTs.

**LIST-2.2**  
**States with Higher Percentage Share of Suicides during 2018 to 2020**

Sl. No.	Year					
	2018		2019		2020	
1	Maharashtra	(13.4%)	Maharashtra	(13.6%)	Maharashtra	(13.0%)
2	Tamil Nadu	(10.3%)	Tamil Nadu	(9.7%)	Tamil Nadu	(11.0%)
3	West Bengal	(9.9%)	West Bengal	(9.1%)	Madhya Pradesh	(9.5%)
4	Madhya Pradesh	(8.8%)	Madhya Pradesh	(9.0%)	West Bengal	(8.6%)
5	Karnataka	(8.6%)	Karnataka	(8.1%)	Karnataka	(8.0%)

- As per data provided by States/UTs.

Delhi, which is the most-populous UT, has reported the highest number of suicides (3,142) among UTs, followed by Puducherry (408). A total of 23,855 suicides were reported in the 53 mega cities of the country during the 2020.

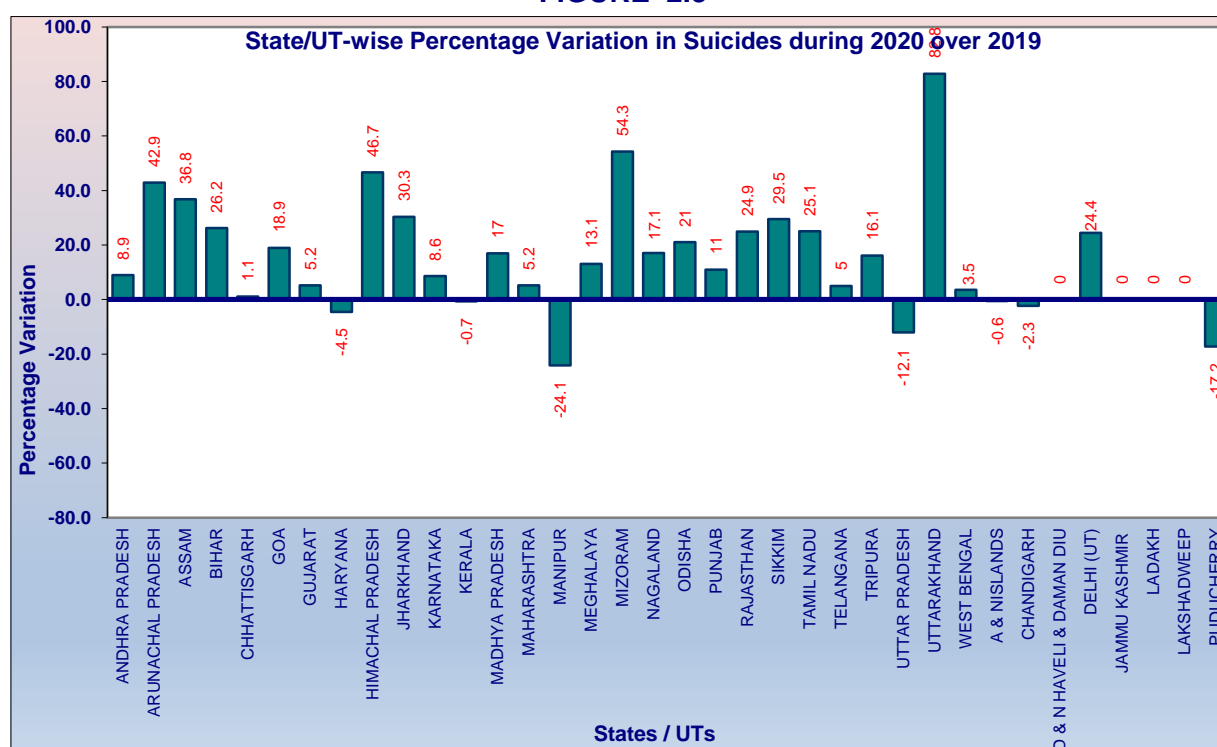
The States and UTs which have reported significant percentage increase in suicides in 2020 over 2019 were Uttarakhand (82.8%), Mizoram (54.3%), Himachal Pradesh (46.7%), Arunachal Pradesh (42.9%), Assam (36.8%) and Jharkhand (30.5%) while highest percentage decrease was reported in Manipur (24.1%), Puducherry (17.2%), Uttar Pradesh

(12.1%), Haryana (4.5%) and Chandigarh (2.3%) [Table-2.3, Figure-2.3].

**Rate of Suicides — Trend in States/UTs**

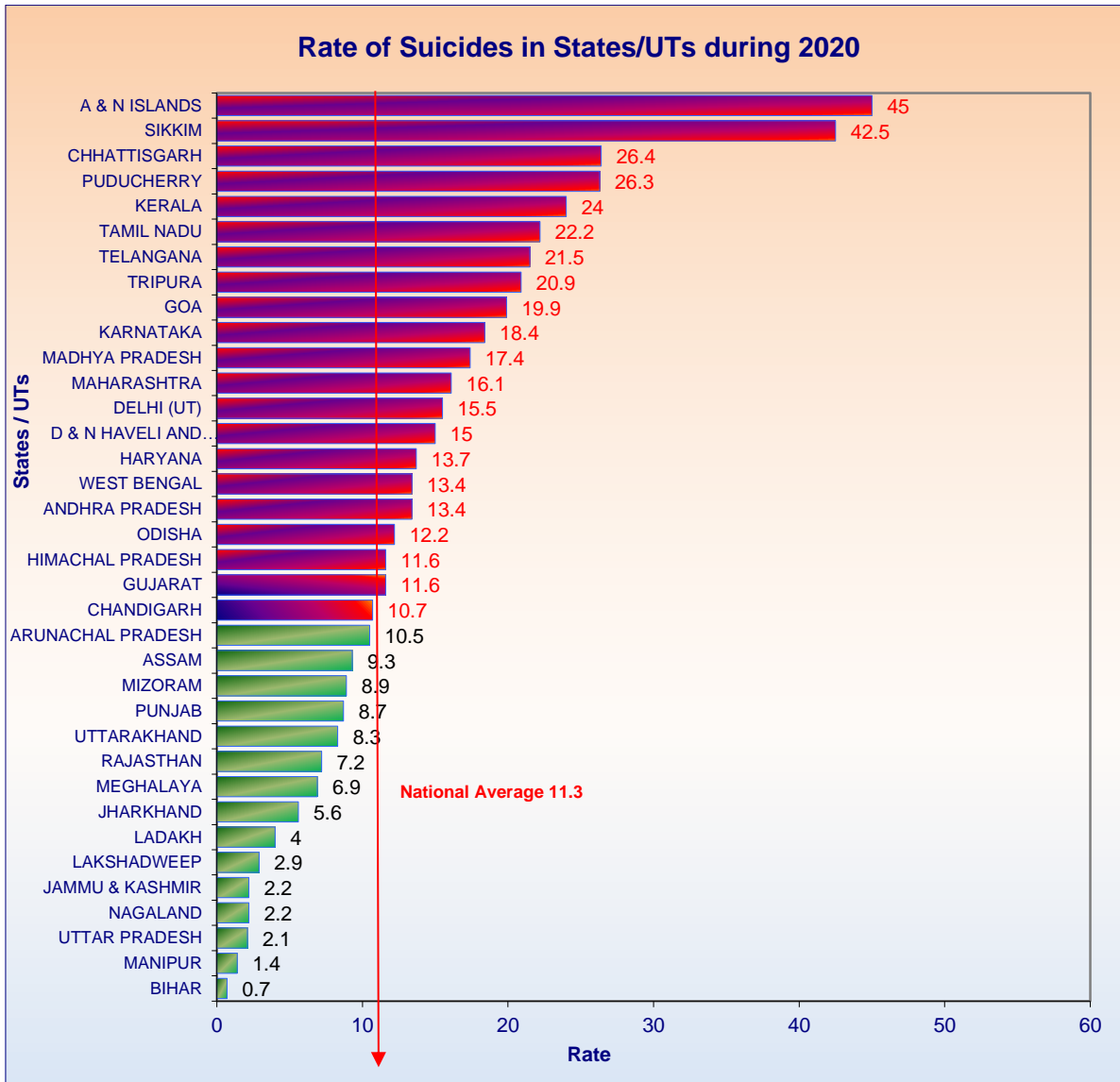
Rate of suicides i.e. the number of suicides per one lakh population, has been widely accepted as a standard yardstick for comparison. All India rate of suicides was 11.3 during the year 2020. A & N Islands reported the highest rate of suicide (45.0) followed by Sikkim (42.5), Chhattisgarh (26.4), Puducherry (26.3), and Kerala (24.0) [Figure-2.4]. The details of States/UTs which have recorded higher rate of suicides during 2018 to 2020 are given in LIST-2.3.

**FIGURE-2.3**



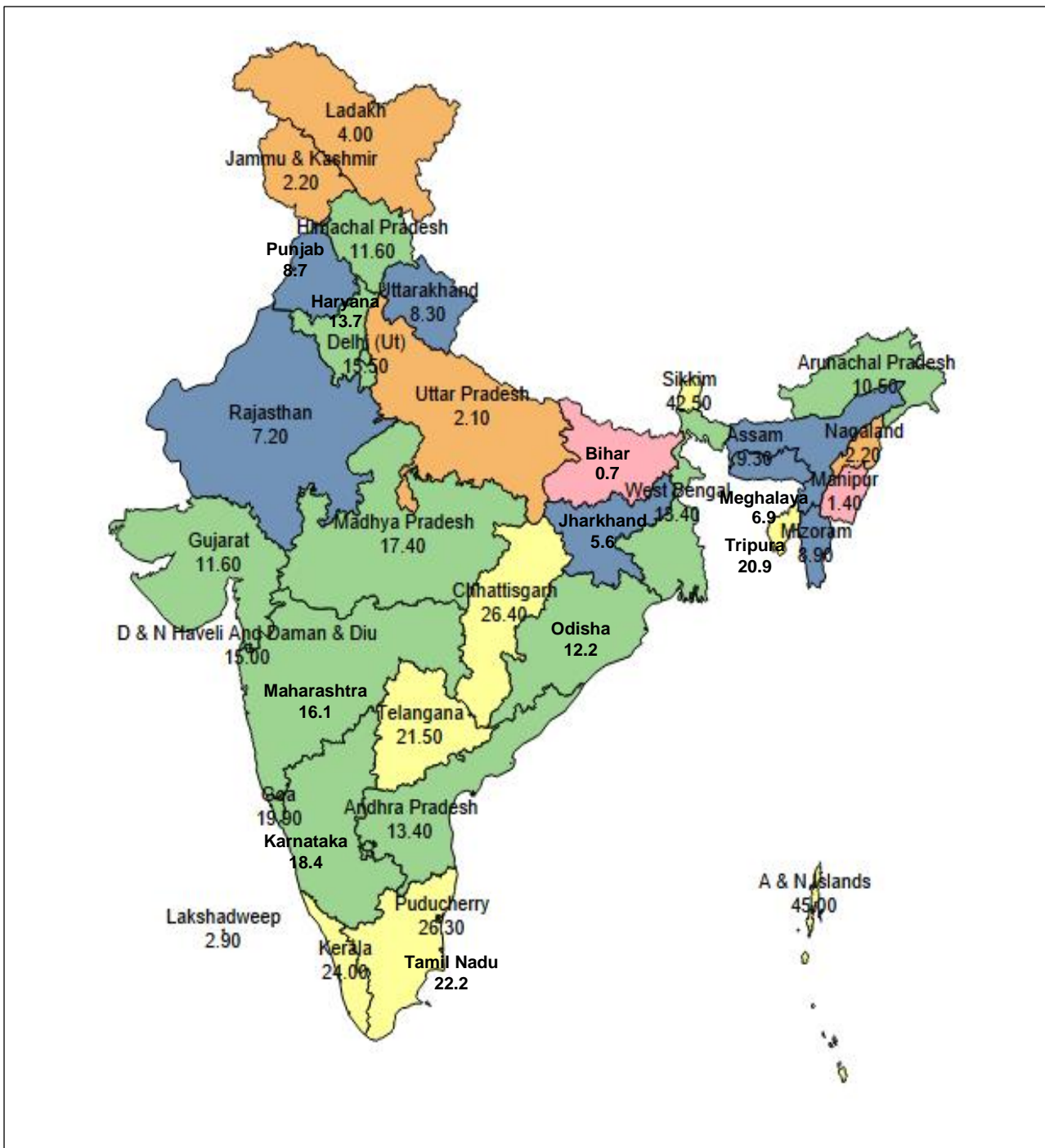
- As per data provided by States/UTs.

**FIGURE-2.4**

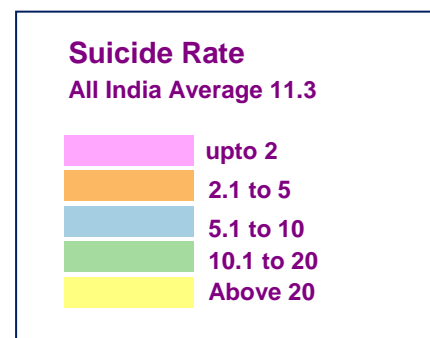


- As per data provided by States/UTs.

**FIGURE-2.5**  
**STATE/UT - WISE SUICIDE RATE DURING 2020**



Note:  
Suicide Rate means Number of Suicides per One Lakh population.



- As per data provided by States/UTs.

**LIST-2.3**  
**States/UTs with Higher Suicide Rate during 2018 to 2020**

	Year				
	2018	2019	2020		
A & N Islands	41.0	A & N Islands	45.5	A & N Islands	45.0
Puducherry	33.8	Sikkim	33.1	Sikkim	42.5
Sikkim	30.2	Puducherry	32.5	Chhattisgarh	26.4
Kerala	23.5	Chhattisgarh	26.4	Puducherry	26.3
Telangana	21.2	Kerala	24.3	Kerala	24.0
<b>National Rate</b>	<b>(10.2)</b>	<b>National Rate</b>	<b>(10.4)</b>	<b>National Rate</b>	<b>(11.3)</b>

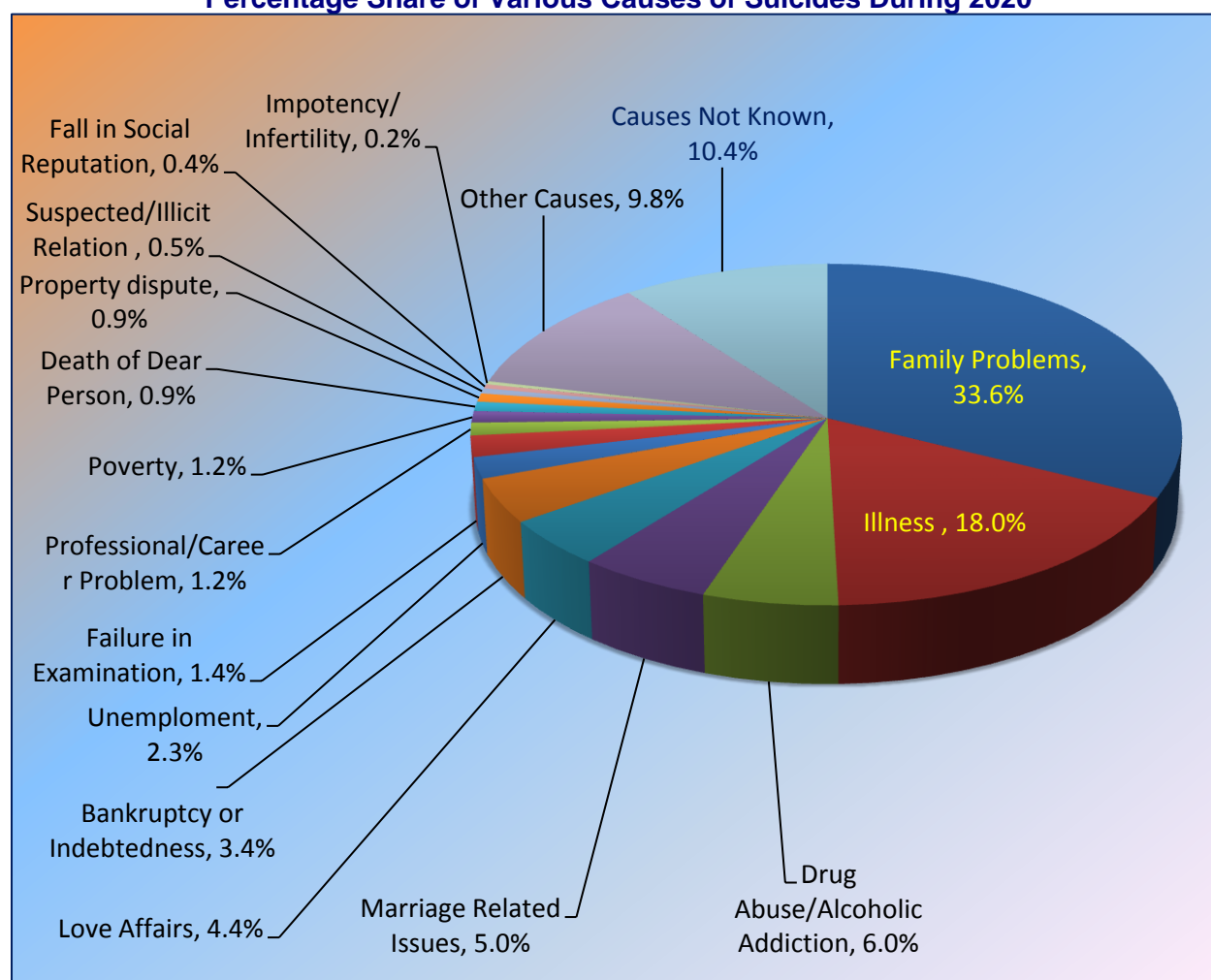
- As per data provided by States/UTs.

**Causes of Suicides**

'Family Problems' and 'Illness' were the major causes of suicides which accounted for 33.6% and 18.0% of total suicides respectively during 2020. 'Drug Abuse/Addiction' (6.0%), 'Marriage Related Issues'

(5.0%), 'Love Affairs' (4.4%), 'Bankruptcy or Indebtedness' (3.4%), 'Unemployment' (2.3%), 'Failure in Examination' (1.4%), 'Professional/Career Problem' (1.2%) and 'Poverty' (1.2%) were other causes of suicides [Table-2.4].

**FIGURE-2.6**  
**Percentage Share of Various Causes of Suicides During 2020**



- As per data provided by States/UTs.

\* Figure of Suicides due to ideological causes/hero worshipping, physical abuse (rape etc.) and illegitimate pregnancy included in Other Causes.

State and UT wise and City wise details on various causes of suicides are presented in **Table–2.5**. The States/UTs which reported more than the All-India average share under the two major causes of suicides i.e. 'Family Problems' and 'Illness' are grouped in the **LIST–2.4**.

### Suicide Victims by Sex and Age Group

Age group wise distribution of suicides by causes during 2020 is presented in **Table–2.0**. The overall male : female ratio of suicide

### Professional Status of Suicide Victims

Details on professional status of suicide victims are presented in **Table–2.6**. Housewives accounted for 50.3% of the total female victims (22,372 out of 44,498) and constitute nearly 14.6% of total victims who committed suicides (22,372 out of 1,53,052) during 2020.

Government servants accounted for 1.3% (2,057) as compared to 6.6% (10,166) from Private Sector Enterprises out of 1,53,052 of total victims. Employees from Public Sector

**LIST–2.4**  
**States & UTs Reporting Higher Share of Suicides due to Illness and Family Problems during 2020**

Illness				Family Problems			
All India % Share							
18.0				33.6			
Sl. No.	State/UT	Suicides	% Share	Sl. No.	State/UT	Suicides	% Share
1	LAKSHADWEEP	2	100	1	ODISHA	4506	81.2
2	PUNJAB	951	36.4	2	TRIPURA	503	59.5
3	ANDHRA PRADESH	2238	31.8	3	TELANGANA	4190	52
4	GOA	93	30.2	4	HIMACHAL PRADESH	443	51.7
5	SIKKIM	82	28.8	5	BIHAR	383	47.3
6	TAMIL NADU	4423	26.2	6	TAMIL NADU	7523	44.6
7	A & N ISLANDS	47	26.1	7	MANIPUR	19	43.2
8	KARNATAKA	3133	25.6	8	ASSAM	1386	42.7
9	PUDUCHERRY	99	24.3	9	KERALA	3575	42.1
10	KERALA	1933	22.7	10	UTTAR PRADESH	1952	40.6
11	MADHYA PRADESH	3303	22.7	11	RAJASTHAN	2077	36.7
12	GUJARAT	1715	21.3	12	CHANDIGARH	47	36.7
13	TRIPURA	175	20.7	13	MAHARASHTRA	6539	32.8
14	MAHARASHTRA	3684	18.5	14	UTTARAKHAND	284	30.1
				15	KARNATAKA	3445	28.1

- As per data provided by States/UTs.

victims for the year 2020 was 70.9 : 29.1, which is more as compared to year 2019 (70.2 : 29.8). The proportion of female victims were more in 'Marriage Related Issues' (specifically in 'Dowry Related Issues'), and 'Impotency/Infertility'. The age group (18 - below 30 years) and persons of 30 years - below 45 years of age were the most vulnerable groups resorting to suicides. These age groups accounted for 34.4% and 31.4% suicides respectively. 'Family Problems' (4,006), 'Love Affairs' (1,337) and 'Illness' (1,327) were the main causes of suicides among children (below 18 years of age).

Undertakings formed 1.7% (2,602), whereas students and un-employed victims accounted for 8.2% (12,526 victims) and 10.2% (15,652 victims) of total suicides respectively. Self-employed category accounted for 11.3% of total suicide victims (17,332 out of 1,53,052).

A total of 10,677 persons involved in farming sector (consisting of 5,579 farmers/cultivators and 5,098 agricultural labourers) have committed suicides during 2020, accounting for 7.0% of total suicides victims (1,53,052) in the country. Out of 5,579 farmer/cultivator suicides, a total of 5,335 were male and 244 were female.

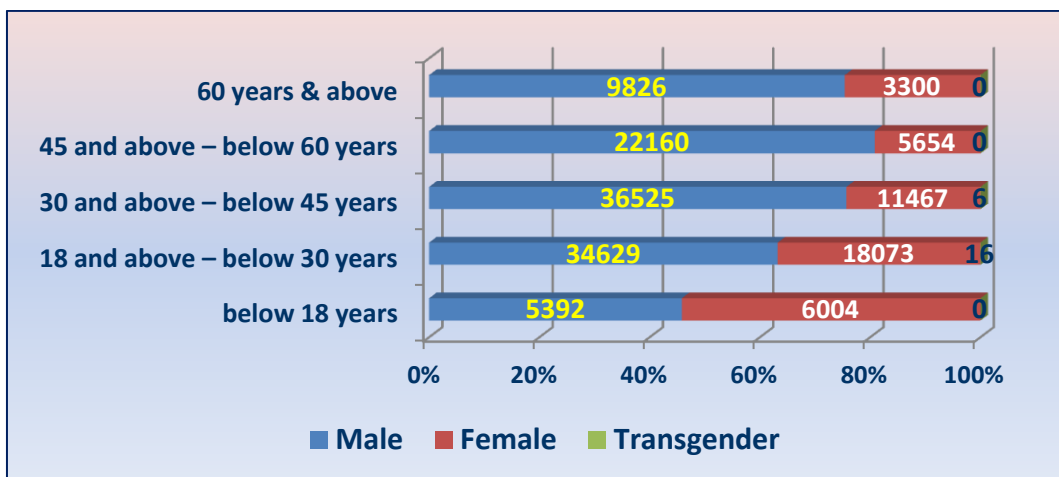


Out of 5,098 suicides committed by agricultural labourers during 2020, 4,621 were male and 477 were female.

Certain States/UTs namely, West Bengal, Bihar, Nagaland, Tripura, Uttarakhand, Chandigarh, Delhi UT, Ladakh, Lakshadweep and Puducherry reported zero suicides of Farmers/Cultivators as well as Agricultural Labourers.

**FIGURE-2.7**

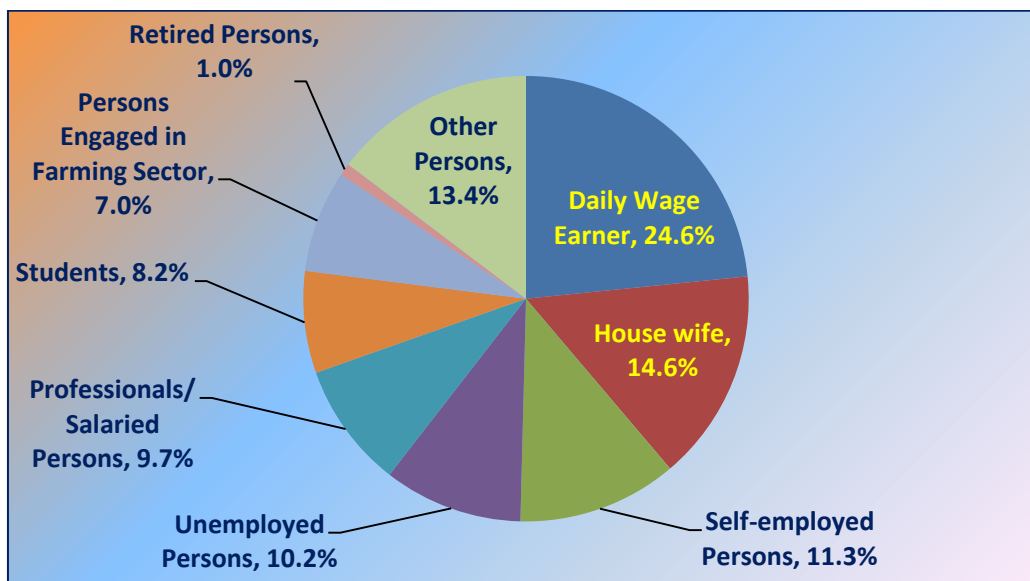
**Suicide Victims by Sex and Age Group during 2020**



- As per data provided by States/UTs.

**FIGURE-2.8**

**Percentage Distribution of Suicide Victims by Profession During 2020**



- As per data provided by States/UTs.

Out of total 1,085,32 male suicides, maximum suicides were committed by daily wage earners (33,164) followed by self-employed persons (15,990) and Unemployed Persons (12,893). A total of 44,498 females committed suicides during 2020 in the country. Of females who committed suicides, highest number (22,372) was of house-wives followed by students (5,559) and daily wage earners (4,493). A total of 22 transgender have committed suicide. Out of 22 transgender, 5 were 'Unemployed Persons' and 9 were 'Daily Wage Earners', 2 each were 'Self-employed Persons' and 'House-wives', while 4 fall under 'Other' category.

State/UT-wise and profession wise analysis of suicide victims is presented in **Table-2.7**. Majority of suicides committed by house-wives were reported in Madhya Pradesh (3,185 out of 22,374 suicides) followed by Maharashtra (2,570 suicides) and Tamil Nadu (2,557 suicides) which accounted for 14.2%, 11.5% and 11.4% of total such suicides during 2020 respectively. Majority of suicides committed by government servants were reported in Maharashtra (299 out of 2,057 suicides) followed by Tamil Nadu (269 suicides), Karnataka (181 suicides), Madhya Pradesh (181 suicides) and Rajasthan (112 suicides) which accounted for 14.5%, 13.1%, 8.8%, 8.8% and 5.4% of total such suicides respectively. Majority of suicides committed by persons engaged in Private Sector Enterprises were reported in Maharashtra (1,702 out of 10,166 suicides), Tamil Nadu (1,536 suicides), Karnataka (1,006 suicides), Gujarat (900 suicides) and Madhya Pradesh (691 suicides), they accounted for 16.7%, 15.1%, 9.9%, 8.9% and 6.8% of total such suicides respectively. Of total suicides committed by students, 13.2% were reported in Maharashtra (1,648 suicides out of 12,526) followed by 11.7% in Odisha (1,469 suicides), 9.2% in Madhya Pradesh (1,158 suicides), 7.4% in Tamil Nadu (930 suicides) and 5.6% in Jharkhand (704 suicides). Majority of suicides committed by un-employed persons, 11.8% were in Maharashtra (1,843 out of 15,652 suicides), 11.3% in Kerala (1,769 suicides), 10.0% in Tamil Nadu (1,566 suicides), 8.9% in Odisha (1,398 suicides) and 8.6% in Karnataka (1,350 suicides). Majority of suicides committed by persons engaged in business activities were reported by Karnataka (15.1%), Maharashtra (13.7%),

Tamil Nadu (12.4%), Madhya Pradesh (7.8%) and Odisha (6.4%). Majority of victims engaged in farming sector were reported in Maharashtra (37.5%), Karnataka (18.9%), Andhra Pradesh (8.3%), Madhya Pradesh (6.9%) and Chhattisgarh (5.0%).

### Social Status of Suicide Victims

Social Status of victims is classified in seven categories namely 'Un-married', 'Married', 'Widowed/Widower', 'Divorcee', 'Separated', 'Others' and 'Status Not Known'.

The information on the social status of suicide victims is presented in **Table-2.8(I)**. It is observed that 66.1% (1,01,181 out of 1,53,052) of the suicide victims were married while 24.0% were un-married (36,803). Widowed/Widower, Divorcees and Separated have accounted for 1.6% (2,491 victims), 0.5% (831 victims) and 0.6% (963 victims) of total suicide victims respectively during 2020.

The State/UT-wise information on the social status of suicide victims is presented in **Table-2.9**.

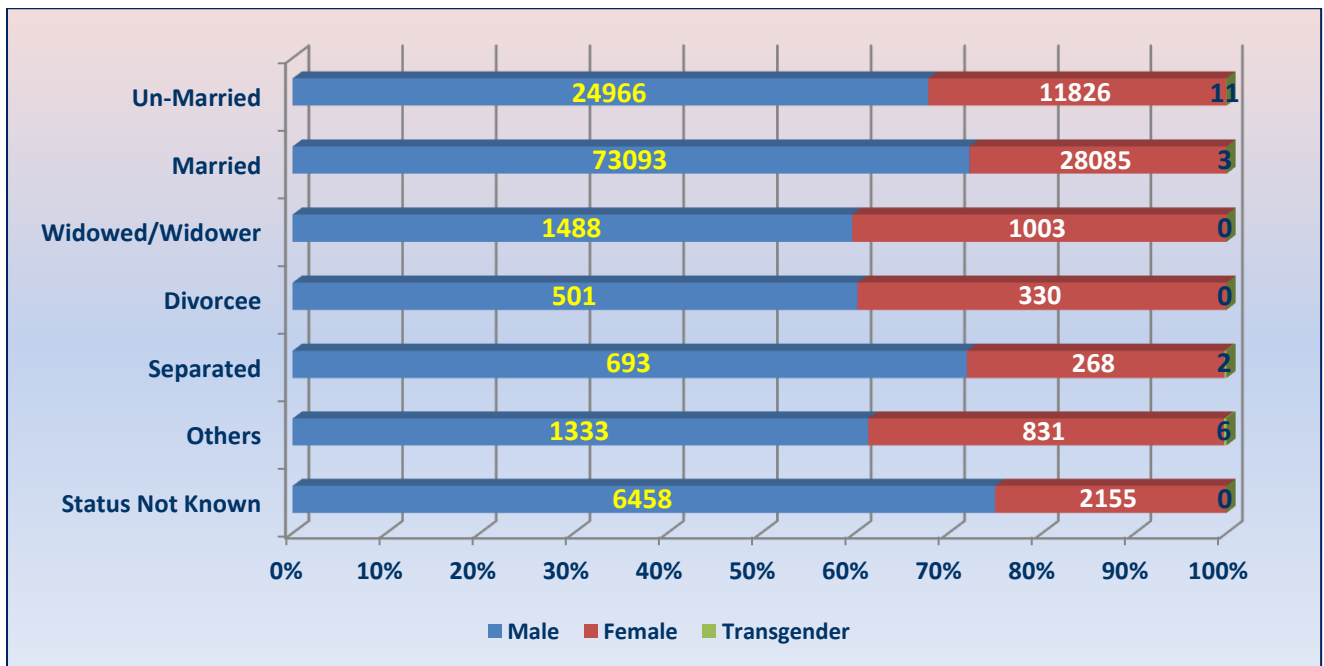
### Economic Status of Suicide Victims

The information on the economic status of suicide victims is presented in **Table-2.8(II)**. 63.3% (96,810) of suicide victims in 2020 were having annual income of less than ₹1 lakh. 32.2% (49,270) of suicide victims belong to annual income group of '₹1 lakh to less than ₹5 lakh'. The State/UT wise information on the Economic Status of suicide victims is presented in **Table-2.10**.

### Educational Status of Suicide Victims

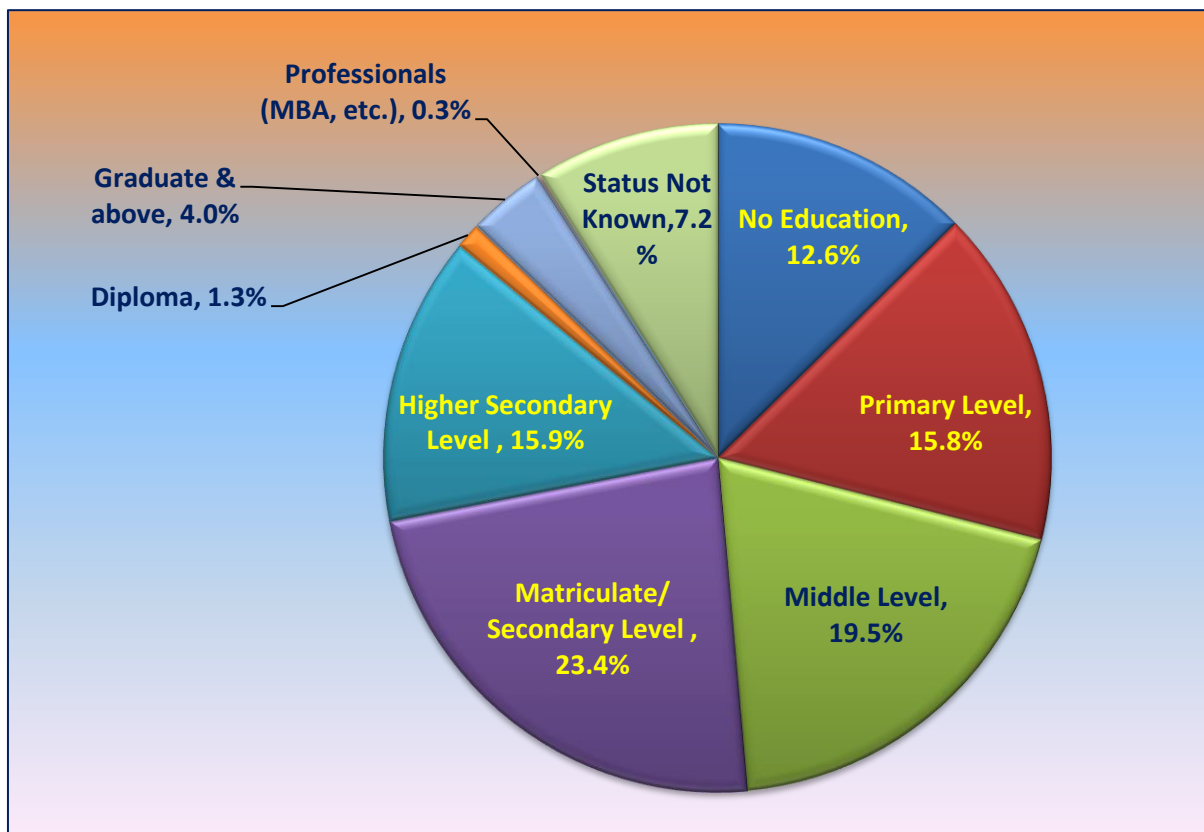
The sex-wise and education-wise break-up of suicide victims is presented in **Table-2.8(III)**. The maximum numbers of suicide victims (23.4%) (35,771) were educated up to Matriculation/ Secondary level, whereas Middle level educated accounted for 19.5% (29,859), Primary educated (15.8%) (24,242), Hr. Secondary / Intermediate/Pre-University educated (15.9%) (24,278) and Illiterate (12.6%) (19,275). Only 4.0% (6,190 out of 1,53,052 victims) of total suicide victims were graduates and above.

**FIGURE-2.9**  
**Distribution of Suicide Victims by Social Status during 2020**



- As per data provided by States/UTs.

**FIGURE-2.10**  
**Percentage Share of Suicide Victims by Educational Status during 2020**



- As per data provided by States/UTs.

## LIST-2.5

### Percentage of Suicide Victims by Educational Level during 2018 – 2020

Sl. No.	Educational Level	Percentage Share		
		2018	2019	2020
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
1	No Education	12.7	12.6	12.6
2	Primary Level	17.1	16.3	15.8
3	Middle Level	19.5	19.6	19.5
4	Matriculate/Secondary Level	23.6	23.3	23.4
5	Higher Secondary Level	16.4	14.0	15.9
6	Diploma	1.1	1.2	1.3
7	Graduate & above	3.3	3.7	4.0
8	Professionals (MBA etc.)	0.3	0.2	0.3
9	Status Not Known	6.0	8.9	7.2
<b>10</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

- As per data provided by States/UTs.

The State/UT wise information on the Education Status of suicide victims is presented in **Table-2.11**.

Out of 35,771 suicides committed by persons educated up-to matriculate/secondary level, 17.7% were reported in Maharashtra followed by Tamil Nadu (11.2% each) and Kerala (8.8%). Out of 29,859 suicides committed by persons educated up-to middle level, 13.4% were reported in Maharashtra followed by Tamil Nadu (12.2%) and Madhya Pradesh (10.7%). Out of 19,275 suicides committed by persons with no education 13.5% were reported in Madhya Pradesh followed by Telangana (12.4%) and Tamil Nadu (9.4%) [**Table-2.11**].

Percentage share of suicide victims by educational level during 2018-20 is presented in **LIST-2.5**.

### Means Adopted for Committing Suicides

The means adopted for committing suicide varied from the easily available and effective means such as consumption of poison, jumping etc. to more painful means such as self-inflicted injuries, hanging etc. Like previous year, 'Hanging' (57.8%), consuming 'Poison' (25.0%), 'Drowning' (5.2%) and 'Fire/Self-Immolation' (3.0%) were the prominent means/mode of committing suicide. [**Table-2.12**]

Percentage share of the means adopted in committing suicide during 2019-20 is presented in **LIST-2.6**.

As mode adopted by suicide victims, the share of 'Fire/Self Immolation' (from 3.8% to 3.0%) , 'By Poison' (from 25.8% to 25.0%) , 'By Coming under Running Vehicles/Trains' (from 2.4% to 1.7%) and 'By Touching Electric Wire' (from 0.5% to 0.4%) has decreased while shares of Consuming Sleeping Pills (from 0.5% to 0.6%) and 'Hanging' (from 53.6% to 57.8) have increased during 2020 over 2019. [**LIST-2.6**]

The sex-wise break-up and means adopted for suicide in various States/UTs is presented in **Table-2.13**.

## LIST-2.6

### Percentage of Means/Mode Adopted by Victims to Commit Suicide during 2019-2020

SL	Means/Mode Adopted	Percentage & Number	
		2019	2020
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
1	Consuming Sleeping Pills	0.5% (753)	0.6% (882)
2	Drowning	5.2% (7,208)	5.2% (7,977)
3	Fire/Self Immolation	3.8% (5,234)	3.0% (4,603)
4	Firearms	0.3% (428)	0.3% (444)
5	By Hanging	53.6% (74,629)	57.8% (88,460)
6	By Poison	25.8% (35,882)	25.0% (38,336)
7	By Self inflicting Injury	0.6% (828)	0.3% (457)
8	By Jumping	1.5% (2,034)	1.2% (1,843)
9	By Coming under Running Vehicles/Trains	2.4% (3,337)	1.7% (2,626)
10	By Touching Electric Wire	0.5% (752)	0.4% (629)
11	By Other Means	5.8% (8,038)	4.4% (6,795)
<b>12</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Note: Bracket ( ) refer to Number of victims who have committed suicides

- As per data provided by States/UTs.

The number of male victims were more than females in all means of suicide except those who committed suicides by 'Fire/Self-immolation' where share of female victims was more (2,679 out of 44,498).

## Suicides in Cities

City refers to mega city i.e. city having population of 10,00,000 or more.

The numbers of suicides in 53 mega cities show an increasing trend during 2017 to 2020. It increased by 0.8% (to 21,408) in 2018 and increased by 4.6% (to 22,390) in 2019. It increased by 6.5% (to 23,855) in 2020. Details on year-wise incidents in cities, percentage share to All-India, rate of suicides and percentage change during 2017 - 2020 may be seen in **LIST-2.7**.

However, a total of 978 victims have committed suicide in 53 mega cities due to 'Marriage Related Issues' accounting for 4.1% of total suicides in the cities.

## Mass/Family Suicides

This section provides information on the number of cases where family members have committed suicide jointly. Mass/Family Suicides were reported in 14 States during the year 2020. State/UT & City-wise information on mass/family suicides is presented in **Table-2.14**.

### LIST-2.7

**Incidence of Suicides in Mega-Cities, percentage share to All-India, rate of suicides and percentage change over previous year during 2017 – 2020**

Year	Suicides in Cities	Cities Share to All India	Rate in Cities	% Variation over Previous Year (Incidence)
2017	21,240	16.4	13.2	1.8
2018	21,408	15.9	13.3	0.8
2019	22,390	16.1	13.9	4.6
2020	23,855	15.6	14.8	6.5

- As per data provided by States/UTs.

Out of the Mega Cities, the four Metropolitan Cities — Delhi City (3,025), Chennai (2,430), Bengaluru (2,196) and Mumbai (1,282) have reported higher number of suicides. These four cities together have reported almost 37.4% of the total suicides reported from 53 mega cities. Chennai has shown a slight decline during 2020 over 2019. Delhi City has shown an increase of 24.8% (from 2,423 suicides to 3,025 suicides), Bengaluru 5.5% (from 2,081 suicides to 2,196 suicides) and Mumbai has observed an increase of 4.3% (from 1,229 suicides to 1,282 suicides). **[Table-2.3]**

The suicide rate in cities (14.8) was higher as compared to All-India suicide rate (11.3). Kollam followed by Rajkot have reported the highest suicides rate of 44.0 and 31.2 respectively. **[Table-2.2]**.

'Family Problems (other than marriage related issues)' was the major cause of suicide in cities which accounted for 34.0% (8,102) followed by 'Illness' (17.8%) (4,248) victims out of 23,855 victims.

A total of 121 cases of mass/family suicides were registered during the year 2020. In these suicides, a total of 272 persons, comprising of 148 married persons and 124 unmarried persons, lost their lives.

Maximum cases of mass/family suicides were reported in Tamil Nadu (22 cases) followed by Andhra Pradesh (19 cases), Madhya Pradesh (18 cases), Rajasthan (15 cases) and Assam (10 cases) during 2020 with a total 45 persons in Tamil Nadu, 46 persons in Andhra Pradesh, 39 persons in Madhya Pradesh, 36 persons in Rajasthan and 10 persons in Assam losing lives. **[Table-2.14]**

Out of 53 cities, mass/family suicides were reported in 10 cities. These three cities have registered 26 cases of mass/family suicides in which 63 persons have committed suicides during 2020. Among these persons, 40 were married and 23 were unmarried persons. **[Table-2.14]**

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