

Data reveals that housewives in between ages fifteen to forty are more prone to suicides in Tamil Nadu

Suicides data from National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) for the years 2001 to 2013 reveals that among those who committed suicides in Tamil Nadu, housewives suicides were highest.

Overall Picture

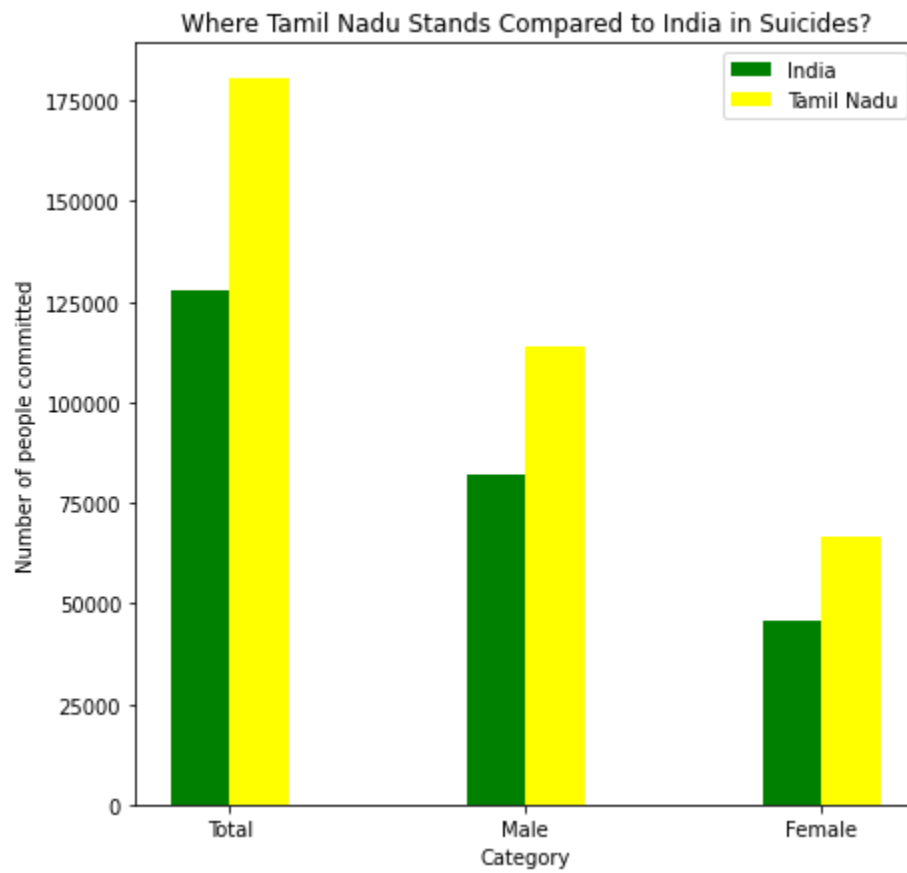
Tabel 1

CAUSE	India	India Male	India Female	Tamil Nadu	Tamil Nadu Male	Tamil Nadu Female
Farming/Agriculture Activity	17002	14684	2317	10596	8637	1959
Housewife	24971	0	24971	30761	0	30761
Others (Please Specify)	42505	32502	10002	66101	49794	16307
Professional Activity	3498	3179	318	3948	3191	757
Public Sector Undertaking	2702	2221	480	4106	3115	991
Retired Person	1009	856	153	1355	1157	198
Self-employed (Business activity)	6898	6389	509	12712	11462	1250
Service (Government)	2038	1671	366	3019	2345	674
Service (Private)	10364	8720	1644	18853	14070	4783
Student	6709	3694	3014	6684	3558	3126
Total	127765	82198	45566	180414	113671	66743
Total Salaried	15104	12612	2491	25978	19530	5937
Total Self-employed	50910	42834	8076	60545	49476	5937
Unemployed	10065	8278	1787	22279	16342	5937

Tabel 1 tells us that in India, on average, about one lakh twenty seven thousand people committed suicides in every State (including Union Territories) between years 2001 and 2013. Whereas the data for the Tamil Nadu state reveals that the number for the state is more than one lakh eight thousand which is far more than the national average. The better picture for the state is that farmer suicides and student suicides are lesser than the national average. Other than those two categories in every other category the state is higher than the national average.

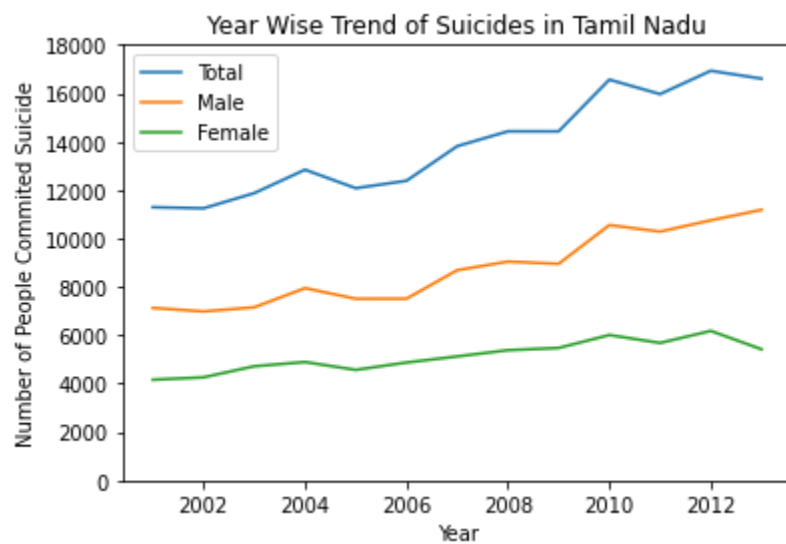
Figure 1 also tells us the same story. Look at the figure 1 and see what is the position of Tamil Nadu compared to the national average for both males and females.

Figure 1



A closer look at the Tamil Nadu

Figure 2



From figure 2 we can find that over the years the number of people committing suicides increasing in Tamil Nadu. If we see the males and females comparison, in any year under this study the suicides in males is higher than the suicides in females. The suicides in males increasing every year whereas the suicides in females started decreasing from 2011.

Is this the overall story?

If one see the aggregates and concludes that males are more prone to suicides than females in Tamil Nadu, than they are definitely committing to a fallacy. One should look at all parts of the story before inferring anything from that story.

Figure 3

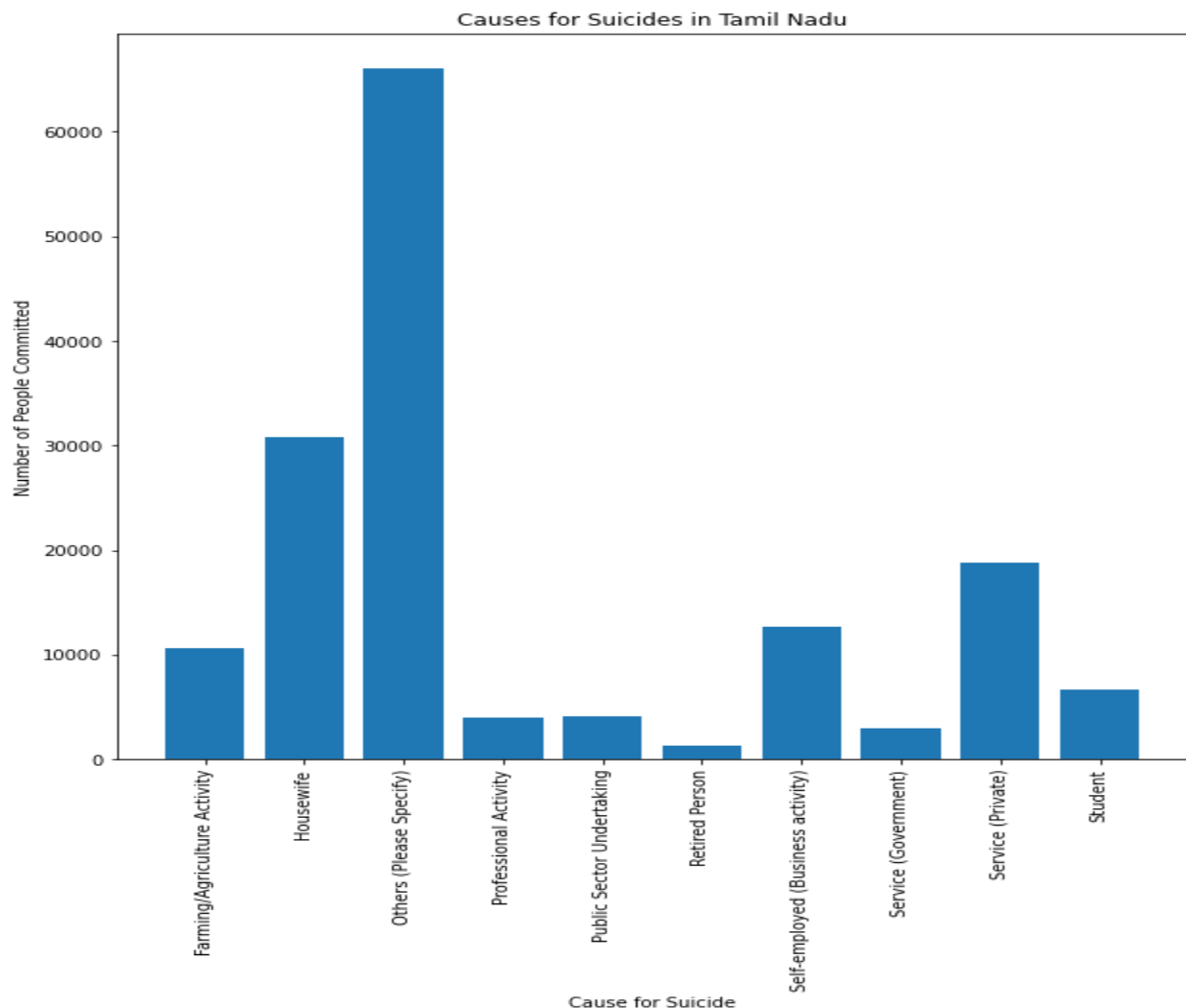


Figure 3 telling us that among different causes for suicides 'Others (Please Specify)' and 'Housewife' are two big causes for the suicides in Tamil Nadu. Here, the former represents heterogeneous causes which are different from each other. So, if we further disaggregate them, the size of the graph may diminish, whereas the 'Housewife' is the homogenous cause and exclusive for women only. That tells us that 'Housewife' is the highest cause for suicides in Tamil Nadu.

Figure 4

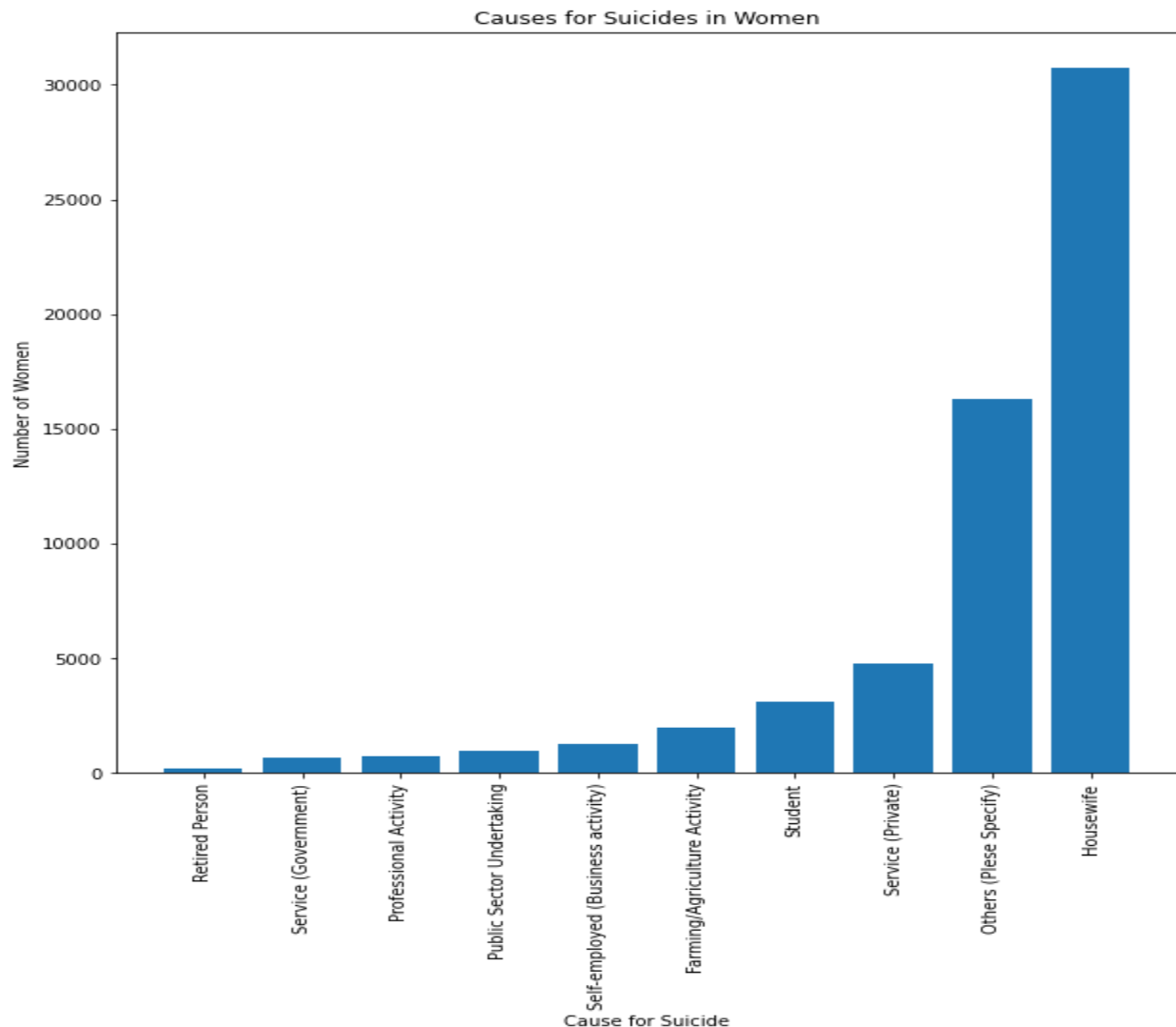
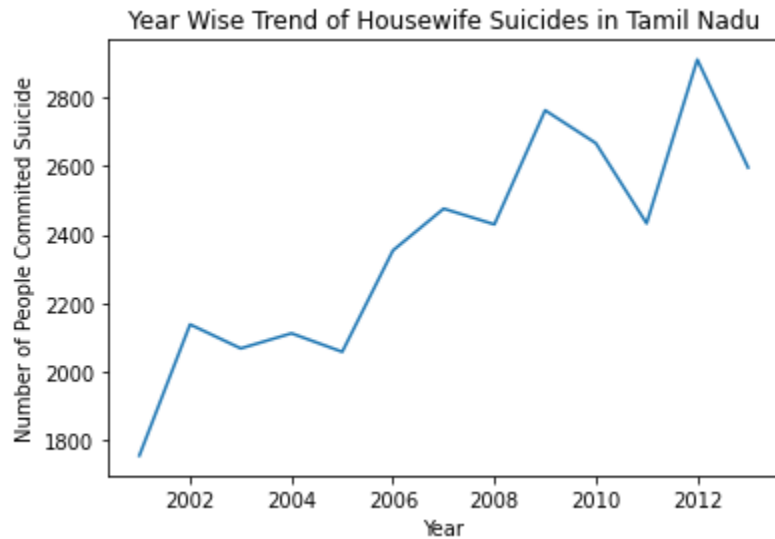


Figure 4 telling us that among women 'Housewife' is the biggest cause for suicide in Tamil Nadu. Excluding 'Others (Please Specify)' every other cause is far less leads to suicides compared to 'Housewife'. Here, the cause 'Housewife' represents to married women who are committing suicides because they are housewives to their particular houses. What does I mean by saying that is that, here the women are not committing suicides because of their education or employment or anything, they are committing suicides just because they are housewives, that means something wrong for them with their husbands or family members or being as house wives.

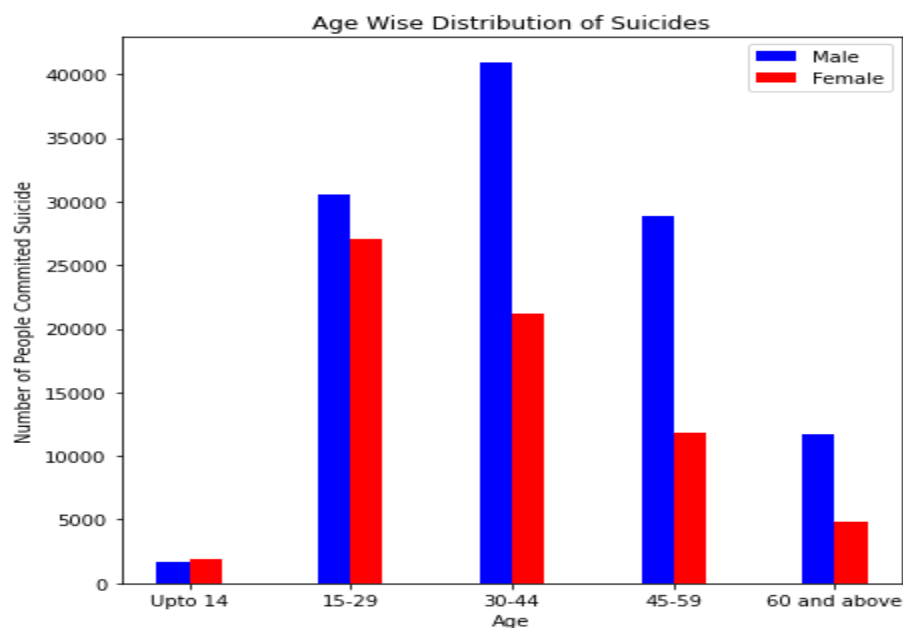
If we look at the figure 5, it is saying that over the years (with some up and downs in between) the suicides of housewives increasing in Tamil Nadu. That means that year by year the number of housewives who are committing suicides because of their role of being housewives increasing. By this we can infer that household violence on women is increasing year by year.

Figure 5



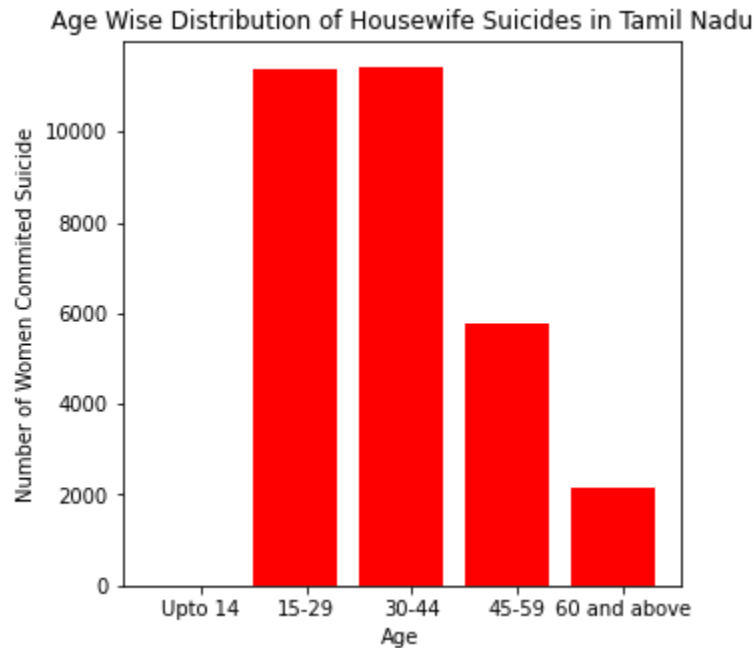
Both figure 6 and figure 7 are telling us that suicides in Tamil Nadu are highest for people in between ages fifteen to fifty nine, which is the working age according to the periodic labour force survey (PLFS) in India. If we go back to Table 1 and observe and the figure 7 for a moment, we can say that even though both women and men in between ages fifteen to fifty nine are committing suicides in larger numbers, the reasons for both of them are completely different. Men may committing suicides because of work pressures or settlement issues or any other reasons in this age, but the main reason for women suicides in this age is only one, that is their marriage.

Figure 6



If we see the figure 7 again, excluding women who are under fourteen, because it is very unlikely to get marry in that age, the younger the age the more women committing to suicides because of their marriage.

Figure 7



Conclusion

The Tamil Nadu is far higher in suicides compared to India's average. The broader picture by observing overall suicides between men and women and saying men are committing more suicides than women will not give any value to the story. We have to look at the causes for suicides more closely and find what is the main cause for suicides. Here, in Tamil Nadu, 'Housewife' become the main cause for suicides in the state and it is more among younger women. Which means that marriage at the younger age makes women more prone to household violence or household pressure or depression because of losing their dreams or any other reason associated with their marriage making prone to suicides. So, it is the responsibility of us as a society to value the opinions of women and let them do what they wish. Parents should not force women to get married at a younger age. The government should take appropriate steps to encourage women for higher education so that their age to get married rises and they will get independence even after marriage. In addition to that, the government should take appropriate measures to encourage women to participate in the labor force so that they can work, earn and become independent decision makers in their respective households.