

ISBN: 978-81-949112-2-7

Farmers Health in South Odisha: An Empirical Investigation

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Introduction

The focus on physical health and mental well-being of farmers is fetching increasing attention for researchers and development practitioners in the global landscape (Brew et al., 2016; Binkowska et al., 2016; Susanto et al., 2017; Brigance et al., 2018; Larsen et al., 2019; Wessel et al., 2020). Of late, there is an upsurge of interest among researchers in morbidity and mortality rates in farmers and non-farmers (Zhao et al., 2019). The morbidity and mortality rates of farmers are less than non-farmers faced with various serious ailments (Waggoner et al., 2011; Levêque-Morlais et al., 2015). It is also observed that higher physical demands at agricultural work setting along with refraining from addiction and substance leads to healthy lifestyles of farmers (Blair et al., 2005; Armitage et al., 2012). Panda, (2017) and Patel et al., (2019) noted that farmers are prone to vulnerability due to natural disasters and climate change; while this is clearly evident in various places of India, it is highly prevalent in the state of Odisha (Arora & Birwal, 2017; Behera & Tandi, 2019; Senapati, 2020; Das & Ghosh, 2020; Acharya & Das, 2020). Apart from these, farmers do face various problems with relation to occupational safety and mental health (Mishra & Satapathy, 2019a; Padhy & Raju, 2020). Apart from the natural disasters, health issues, infrastructure also