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SUICIDE: A SOCIOLOGICAL PHENOMENA

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ABSTRACT:

A suicide can be loosely defined as an act of killing oneself. In the modern times, with increasing pressure and workloads, depression, anxiety, stress are seen more commonly which may even lead to suicide. Thinkers have identified various reasons for suicide namely; stress, social norms, peer pressure, traumatic experiences, etc. The French thinker: Emile Durkheim in his famous work titled 'Suicide' highlighted that the main factor behind any suicide is the person's social act or the person's social conditions for example political beliefs, living conditions, family, etc. He pointed out that suicide is not a psychological phenomenon, but a social act. In this paper, the researcher has tried to evaluate the types of suicides (Egoistic Suicide, Altruistic Suicide, Anomic Suicide, Fatalistic Suicide) as defined by Emile Durkheim. The researcher has also tried to evaluate some cases of suicide like that of Rohit Vemula and the Indian Farmers. The shortcomings of Durkheim's concept of Suicide are also discussed.

Keywords: Altruistic Suicide, Anomic Suicide, Egoistic Suicide, Emile Durkheim, Fatalistic Suicide, Indian Farmers, Rohith Vemula, Silk Smitha, social conditions, Suicide

INTRODUCTION

In the contemporary era, it's not uncommon to see ascending stress and anxiety in people. Sometimes the cases worsen to such extents that they result in suicides. In India, Suicide is the most common cause of death, especially in the age group of 15-39 years. An NDTV report suggests that an average of 381 suicides are recorded every day in India (2019). The conditions have even worsened in the world-wide pandemic, and the world has seen a huge increase in the suicide strata.

A person may commit suicide or may have suicidal thoughts owing to a numerous reasons. It can be peer pressure, high expectations, heartbreaks, trauma, stress, societal norms, etc. The French philosopher pointed out that a suicide is not only backed by one's mental actions but also his social actions. He highlighted the fact that suicide is highly based on the social surroundings of a human.

ABOUT DURKHEIM

Durkheim was born in Épinal, in the Lorraine province of France. His sociological writings, papers and books were largely influenced by his Jewish background as he came from a Jew family. Very early in his life, Durkheim left the path of religious faith and became an agnostic although he never lost interest in the religious phenomena around him. Indeed, most of his writings suggest that religious phenomena roots in social factors rather than any divine or super natural factors. Durkheim entered the prominent École Normale Supérieure in 1879. Durkheim was largely influenced by August Comte and Herbert Spencer as he read them. He also started believing in the scientific approach to study the society in sociology.¹

Politics, which prevailed at that time, also influenced Durkheim's studies a lot. France was defeated in the Franco-Prussian War and it had created a repercussion against secular, republican rule. Durkheim who was a Jew and a socialist, thus fell into the category political minority.²

There was no way that a man of Durkheim's views could obtain a major academic employment in Paris, and so he took a succession of teaching positions in other parts of France. He spent a year analysing and studying, the study of society i.e. sociology in Germany. There he also met the forerunner of experimental psychology, Wilhelm Wundt and was largely influenced by him.³

The 1890s were a period of extraordinarily artistic production for Durkheim. Durkheim's one of the most famous books '*The Division of Labour in Society*' was published in the year 1893. It was his essential statement of the nature of human society and its development. '*Rules of the Sociological Method*' another important piece of work was published by Durkheim in 1895, a manifesto which affirmed that what sociology was and how it must be conducted. At that time, he created the first European Department of Sociology at the University of Bordeaux. Lastly, in 1897, he published '*Suicide*', also on which this project is based. It is a case study that provides a specimen of what the sociological thesis might look like.⁴

In 1902, Durkheim ultimately accomplished his goal of attaining a prominent status in Paris when he befitted to become the Head of education at the Sorbonne. This status gave Durkheim significant influence. His lectures were the only ones that were obligatory for the whole student bodies. In 1912 Durkheim was permanently assigned the position of Head and retitled it as the chair of

education and sociology. It was also in this year that he published his last most essential work, ‘*Elementary Forms of the Religious Life*’.⁵

World War I was to have a catastrophic consequence on Durkheim's life. Durkheim's leftism was constantly patriotic. While Durkheim enthusiastically strived to support his nation in the war, his unwillingness to give in to simplistic nationalist dedication (combined with his Jewish background) made him a expected target of the now-ascendant French political right. Further deflating and destabilizing his influence was the fact that the age group of students that he had accomplished and skilled was recruited to serve in the army, with many of them dying as the French were destroyed in the troughs. Finally, Durkheim's own child, his son Andre, passed away in the war which was a big time setback and time of emotional collapse from which Sir Emile Durkheim could never recover. Emotionally distressed and timeworn, Durkheim collapsed and perished of a stroke in 1917.⁶

THE THEORY OF SUICIDE BY EMILE DURKHEIM

According to the Merriam- Webster dictionary, suicide means “the act or an instance of taking one's own life voluntarily and intentionally”⁷ In the words of Emile Durkheim, “a "suicide" is any death which is the immediate or eventual result of a positive (e.g., shooting oneself) or negative (e.g., refusing to eat) act accomplished by the victim himself. But here Durkheim immediately ran into difficulties, for this definition failed to distinguish between two very different sorts of death: the victim of hallucination who leaps from an upper story window while thinking it on a level with the ground; and the sane individual who does the same thing *knowing* that it will lead to his death.”⁸

In his famous writing *Suicide*, Emile Durkheim pointed out that whenever a suicide is committed it is not purely a psychological thing but is a social act. Whenever a suicide is committed it will always involve some social factors which would have provoked and instigated the person committing a suicide, to take such a large leap.

"Le Suicide" or ‘Suicide’ by establishing sociologist Émile Durkheim is an exemplary content in social science that is broadly educated to brain science understudies. Circulated in 1897, the book was the first to display a sociological investigation of suicide, and its decision that suicide can have

roots in social causes instead of simply being because of individual demeanour, was earth shattering at the time.⁹

It is evident from the definition of suicide given by Durkheim that suicide is a fully conscious act or phenomenon. And the person who commits suicide is fully aware of the consequence of the same. For example, any person who slits his or her wrist (**like Hannah Baker of 13 Reasons Why series**), hangs himself (**like Pratyusha Banerjee did**), or drinks severe poison, or indirectly starts taking drugs severely, overdoses himself or herself, etc is fully aware of such consequences.¹⁰

Durkheim concluded that the more socially integrate and connected a person is, the less that he or she is to commit suicide. As a social integration decreases, people are more likely to commit suicide.¹¹

Durkheim contended that the consistency of suicide rates was a social reality, disclosed by the degree to which people were coordinated and directed by the obliging good powers of aggregate life. Egoistic and Altruistic suicide materialised from the particular under-joining and over-mix of the person by society. Anomic suicide and fatalistic suicide were individually cause by under-guideline and over-guideline in the general public. Durkheim saw that in Western culture, anomie was prompting expanded suicide rates.¹²

When we deliberate all suicides committed in a specific society amid a specific timeframe all in all, the absolute isn't just an aggregate of autonomous units, however establishes in itself another reality *sui generis*, which has its own solidarity and independence, and consequently, its own pre-prominently social nature. The general power of this inclination towards suicide is estimated by taking the connection between the aggregate of voluntary deaths and the number of inhabitants in all ages and genders.

Durkheim wanted to locate the social reasons for suicide (not psychological or from the personal life) and in this way takes a gander at the social conditions (religious faiths, family, political society, occupations, and so forth.)¹³ Durkheim divides Suicide into four types, these are: i) Egoistic suicide ii) Altruistic Suicide iii) Anomic Suicide iv) Fatalistic Suicide

Egoistic suicide is a significant reaction executed by individuals who feel completely withdrawn from society. Usually, individuals are incorporated into society by work jobs, binds to family and network, and other social securities. At the point when these bonds are debilitated through

retirement or loss of family and companions, the probability of proud suicide increments. Old individuals, who endure these misfortunes most significantly, are very powerless to vain suicide. In simpler words, a man who is completely isolated and feels completely detached from the world commits this kind of suicide.¹⁴ This is the suicide of self-centred person who lacks altruistic feelings and is usually cuts himself or herself off from the main stream of the society.¹⁵ Durkheim concludes that suicide varies inversely with the degree of social groups to which the individual belongs.¹⁶

Persons who commit egoistic suicide usually are aloof from the society and they do not take interest in social matters, they are alienated and find it too difficult to adjust with the society and are compelled to commit suicide. Durkheim here compared Catholics and Protestants and concluded that the rate of suicide was less in Catholics than the protestants as the protestants fosters promote spirit of free inquiry, great individual freedom, lacks hierarchical organisations and has fewer common beliefs and practices unlike Catholicism. Here Durkheim proved and generalised that the lack of integration is the main cause of egoistic suicide.¹⁷ For e.g. Ben (name changed) always considered himself a loner. He had really few friends and spent almost all of his time at home watching TV. He was unmarried, had no children and didn't even work. Lacking future goals and feeling directionless and purposeless in life, he decided to commit suicide.¹⁸

Altruistic Suicide, in simple words it is taking off one's own life for the sake of a cause.¹⁹ Similarly as "too much individualism" prompts suicide, "no individualism" also leads to suicides. Durkheim says that among "primitive" (tribal and non-western) individuals, suicide is normal. For this situation, a man or a lady may consider it to be his/her "obligation" to end it all. (For example, a spouse murdering herself when her significant other is dead; a man slaughtering himself in seniority, and so on.) Durkheim sees that altruistic suicide is probably not going to happen much in present day western culture where "singular identity is progressively liberated from the aggregate identity."²⁰

An example of this could be the infamous Japanese Kamikaze pilots of World War II, who collided the airplanes into the World Trade Centre, the Pentagon, and a ground in Pennsylvania in 2001. In such public conditions, individuals are so intensely incorporated into social expectations and society itself that they will slaughter themselves in an effort to attain united aims. Sati system is

also an example of this. Queen Padmini committed Sati for the sake of a larger cause, with several other women, in order to maintain their Rajput dignity. The suicide bomber Dhanu, detonated an RDX explosive-laden belt tucked below her dress at exactly 10:10 PM when Rajiv Gandhi was assassinated.

Anomic Suicide, According to Durkheim (1897), periods of economic, social, or political change result in a state of anomie or normlessness.²¹ Further, he opined, changing conditions just as modification of life prompts disappointment, strife, and aberrance. He saw that times of interruption realized more noteworthy anomie and higher rates of wrongdoing, suicide, and abnormality. Society, which applies an ethical control over the individual, has the capacity of managing human needs and wants. However, in the midst of emergencies (sudden difference in a positive or negative kind), the general public winds up unequipped for practicing guideline over people. It is then that suicides increase. Since when sudden social change happens, qualities and necessities change. What's more, it sets aside effort for the reshaping, or guideline of various gatherings' needs. Durkheim calls this state anomie. Anomie is a customary and explicit factor in causing suicide in our cutting edge social orders.²²

After the earthquake of 1995 in Kobe, the Japanese public health department reported intensifying increase in Suicide rates. Studies have shown a correspondence amongst joblessness rate and anomic Suicide in the past of the United States of America amid the years 1928 and 1932 due to joblessness.

Fatalistic Suicide is the inverse of anomic suicide. It results from too strict regulations or they originate from a society where the regulations are too stringent. Examples are suicides by youthful spouses, childless wedded ladies, slaves, and so on and so forth. These suicides are for the most part inferable from overabundances of physical or moral despotism.²³ They are individuals whose fates are blocked and whose interests are smothered by an onerous order. However, Durkheim conceives that this sort of suicide is immaterial in present day society. In such a condition a person may decide to die rather than continue lasting the repressive conditions, same is the case of suicide among prisoners.²⁴ The best example suiting this could be Ram Singh. Ram Singh, the major accused in the **Nirbhaya Rape case** had allegedly committed suicide. This was due to his jail and reprimands and he possibly was aware what all he was going to face. The major accused Vinay

Sharma also attempted suicide before being sent to Tihar Jail, which is famous for its rigorousness and stringent law abiding authorities.

“If voluntary deaths increase from January to July, it is not because heat disturbs the organism, but because social life is more intense. To be sure, this larger concentration derives from the larger comfort of growth of social life in the summertime than in the wintertime, owed to the sun's position ..., the state of the atmosphere, etc. But the physical environment does not stimulate it directly; above all, it has no effect on the headway of suicide. The latter depends on social conditions.”²⁵

Emile Durkheim took all the social facts and more into thought while inquiring about suicide. Suicide to Durkheim is characterized as any demonstration of death coming about straightforwardly or in a roundabout way from a positive or negative demonstration of the individual himself which he realizes will deliver the outcome. His examinations concentrated on public activity as social facts and that suicide was not the demonstration of an individual but rather because of the social realities around that person. Durkheim makes reference to two powers that make suicidogenic flows. ²⁶Those powers are integration and regulation²⁷, which give rise to the four kinds of suicides which have been discussed above.

Massive numbers of us have an idea that suicide as an individual act. Yet society has additionally a section to do with the demonstration of Suicide. Society is the social association which starts and cutting the general population even from their adolescence. The process of socializations is remarkably able here. Through socialization just individuals are being cut in the general public. Social gatherings, family, schools, religious gatherings are for the most part portions of a general public. These every single social institution have soaked up their ideas to a person.

So how could suicide be an act of self-centeredness? In the event that in this way, at that point shouldn't something be said about the job of the convincing establishments and societies which influenced the mind format of the people who end it all?²⁸ If we look around in general all the actions, social actions of an individual are influenced by the society: the way we talk in public, behave, react to situations, etc. everything is influenced by the society. In his typology of suicide, Durkheim discusses suicide as a social phenomenon. He contends that suicide depends upon the

regulations and integrations that exist in the society. As discussed above, the suicides based on integration are further divided into two parts:

First, where the integration is too weak i.e. egoistic suicide. Here the integration of the individual with the society is too low. These individuals shut themselves up from the social world and try to confide within themselves. Here the society plays an important role thus it proves that suicide is a social phenomenon to a huge extent. Here the individual confides from the society because of the society. In a play written by Vijay Tendulkar, 'Silence! The court is in session' the protagonist of the play, Ms Leela Benare try to commit suicide and confides herself as she is continuously being called a prostitute and unethical because of her wedlock pregnancy.²⁹

Second type is where the integration is too high i.e. altruistic suicide. Durkheim gives an example of sati. Where the people sacrifice their life for a higher cause. Even here the suicide proves out to be a social phenomenon. Taking an example of sati, women committed sati (suicide) as they wanted acceptance in the society and also because of the prevailing norms they are forced to commit such kind of an act.

The suicides based on regulation too are divided into parts: First, where the regulation in the society is not at all stringent or too low i.e. anomic suicide. Here Durkheim talks about bankruptcies, non-repayment of loans, etc. Durkheim sees an alarming rate of increase in suicides in the banking, investment and business of trade and commerce. Second, is the suicide due to regulation, where there the regulations are too stringent i.e. fatalistic suicide. Here because the laws are too stringent and the person is unable to cope up with such stringent laws, he/she decides to commit suicide. Here the best example would be of a typical, cliché middle class Indian household, where the child, especially a single child is forced to study and ace in everything that the parents desire of him. In such a stringent environment when the child is unable to cope, he/she commits suicide. In India, we have a gigantic statistical data of such suicides,³⁰

Also I would like to quote an example from the famous novel '1984', where the laws are so stringent that they're not even allowed to love, keep diaries, even think against the government. Any person would like to commit a suicide in such an environment. Also the example of the Nazi Germany, because there were such stringent laws against the Jews, many of them decided

committing suicide. Here it is clearly proven that all these people committed suicide because of the social factors existing around them. This clearly proves that suicide is also a social phenomenon and not completely an individualistic and a self-centered phenomena.³¹

From the typology of suicide given by Durkheim we can clearly infer that a suicide committed is not wholly a self-centred act, but is also a social phenomenon. The society influences an individual in a lot of ways, in the same way it influences the suicidal acts of a person. In a research conducted by Emile Durkheim he found out that:

- Any individual with a low integration, who has shut himself up from the society is more likely to feel unwanted and will possess suicidal traits and symptoms.
- Protestants who have a more liberal thought are more likely to commit a suicide than a Catholic Jew, on words of Durkheim. (as there is enough regulation in Catholic Jews to keep the mentality of the individuals united and stop the deviation of the same)
- Unmarried people have a higher rate of suicide than the married ones, and the ones with children have even less suicide rate.
- Soldiers are more prone to committing suicide than the individuals also there are less number of suicides in a war than in peace time.
- The rate of suicide enlarges in droughts, economic instabilities than the time of prosperity. Also the rate of suicide is much more in the rich strata of society than the poor and the modest strata.
- Also males have a higher rate of suicide than of females.³²

From all the given findings by Sir Emile Durkheim we can clearly infer that suicide committed is not purely an individualistic act. The act is sure to have some kind or the other social tinge to it.

In all these findings, social factors play a very important role. Every finding suggests that there is intervention of social factors in any of the suicides committed, globally.

For example: the rate of suicide is higher among men than in women. We can infer simply that in a patriarchal society like ours, more is expected of men: to ace in studies, to be the bread winner, head of the family, look after the family, to meet other expectations, etc. Such stringent atmosphere

maybe the cause of higher suicide rate in men (fatalistic suicide, could also be egoistic, depending on the circumstances).

The number of suicides committed in India is soaring by every passing year. The nation represents over 33% of the world's annual female suicides and about a fourth of male suicides, a huge ascent in worldwide offer from 1990³³.

The number of suicides committed are definitely more than the factual stats show, as many of them go unnoticed and unreported. Here, some of the famous cases of suicide have been discussed which made headlines. Rohith Vemula, often described as the '*unfinished portrait*', was a 26 year old, PhD (sociology) student, who killed himself inside the campus of Hyderabad Central University. He was a member of ASA, Ambedkar Students' Association, who fought for the rights of Dalit Students. The university also stopped paying him the fellowship of rs. 25,000 because of his continuing activities in the ASA. This was an indirect attack on the Dalit Students of the Hyderabad University.³⁴

He was one of the five Dalit students who were protesting against their expulsion in the charge of attacking a student from ABVP (Akhil Bharat Vidhyarthi Parishad, a student wing of the BJP). The charge was denied initially by the inquiry and the 5 students including Vemula, were given a clean chit, but in late December, the inquiry reversed its decision.³⁵

On 3rd January 2016, the suspension of these students was confirmed, the five students including Rohith Vemula moved out of the campus and started a protest, a relay hunger strike in front of the campus. Due to his denied rights and fellowship, his parents were really struggling hard to help him through his '*bad times*'. On 17th January 2016, Rohith Vemula committed suicide by hanging himself with the help of an ASA poster.³⁶ The case gained importance in the national and international media as a '*Dalit issue*' as protests and agitations mainly launched by the Left groups, which concluded that Vemula was a victim of oppression and suppression by the university authorities and the BJP leaders towards Dalits.³⁷

To quote from Rohith Vemula's death note/ suicide letter:

*"It was always with myself I had problems. I feel a growing gap between my soul and my body."*³⁸

*“My birth is my fatal accident. I can never recover from my childhood loneliness. The unappreciated child from my past.”*³⁹

*“I am not hurt at this moment. I am not sad. I am just empty. Unconcerned about myself. That’s pathetic. And that’s why I am doing this.”*⁴⁰

*“Know that I am happy dead than being alive.”*⁴¹

Rohith Vemula’s saddening letter is a proof of his grief: from his childhood till his death. He called himself as an unappreciated child from the past, etc. This all proves that Mr Vemula had a lonely and a shut life. He had shut himself from the society and people. One of his co-workers from ASA, also told after his death, that Vemula was a quiet and a sincere student who was mostly seen in the library occupied by books.

It is not unsafe to say that his suicide could be categorized under *egoistic suicide*, where his integration with the society was too low in his childhood years and he almost completely shut himself from the society and people around. On the other hand, it could also be termed as an *altruistic suicide* as he sacrificed his life for the betterment and rights of Dalit students as he committed suicide as an agitation against the Hyderabad Central University authorities which had hardened itself for the Dalit Students. But the egoistic factors of suicide were evidently visible in this case.

From this case we can also infer that suicide is not completely a self-centred or an individualistic action but also a social phenomenon. As in the case of Rohith Vemula, many social factors played a role as cause for his suicide.

The suicide rates in the Indian farmers have been growing on an alarming rate. In accordance with the remarkable study of suicide by Durkheim, the suicide among Indian farmer class could be broadly divided into two categories: Egoistic and Anomic.⁴²

In the given case, most of the farmers commit suicide due to unforeseen or totally unexpected events like failure of crops, drought, floods, and rains during harvesting period, no support from the part of the government, unsafe agrarian community, etc. Due to such factors the farmer is distressed and is forced to commit such an act.⁴³

The other kind among the Indian farmers is the egoistic suicide. These farmers commit suicide and kill themselves due to complete isolation and dejection from the society and the people around them. A farmer who has been in a state of loss for a long time starts considering himself as a loser and as an obligation for the family. He starts considering himself good for nothing and feels useless and commit suicide.⁴⁴

Such examples are commonly found in the states of Maharashtra and Punjab. In Punjab, where we have a trend of lavish weddings, farmers take humongous loans for the weddings of their children and when they're unable to repay the loan, they feel dejected and useless. They also start feeling themselves as an obligation and a burden for the family. Hence, they commit suicide.

From this too we can infer that suicide is a social phenomenon and not completely an individualist phenomenon.

VijyaLakshmi Vadlapati, more famously known as Silk Smitha was a South Indian film actress. She became a sex symbol and a major erotic actress in the 1980s. In a career of about 17 years, she was seen in more than 450 movies but sadly was found dead in her Chennai apartment on 23rd September 1996.⁴⁵

In her career, when she started doing erotic movies, she was liked a lot in the initial years.

As the time passed, her fans started decreasing and the number of critics and haters gradually started increasing. She was being criticized for erotic roles and she had to shift from mainstream South Indian movies to B grade movies. She was termed as prostitute, etc. by a lot of people. She was also burdened by a debt as she had also entered the film producing line. In the last days of her life, she completely shut herself up and subscribed herself to alcoholism. She contacted her only close friend Anuradha to share her problems, but on the morning of 23rd September 1996, she was found dead, of committing a suicide.⁴⁶

The reasons behind her suicide were also not completely individualistic. There were also social factors that contributed in her suicide. She was being ill named and being defamed constantly, she must've felt completely guilty and not facing the world. This is why she shut herself from the society in her last days and subscribed to alcoholism. She wanted to share her grief, with

her friend Anuradha but was unable to and committed suicide. This case could also be categorized under the egoistic suicide.

There are many cases of suicide that are taking place around the world and in India. These are just a few examples. The rate of suicides is increasing at an alarming rate and is much to worry about.

The number of suicides are increasing by an alarming percentage. Nearly 80 thousand people die every year by committing suicide, which closely amounts that one person dies in every 40 seconds. Suicide is a global phenomenon and has expanded a lot in number recently.⁴⁷

India stands accountable for the growing rate of suicides in the world. The number is growing with a rapid pace and must be brought back to normal.

Though, the legal position of suicide in India, or an attempt to suicide is against the law or illegal but many people still do try to commit suicide every year, every day, every minute. The attempt of committing suicide was a punishable offence under article 309 of the India Penal Code. With the amendment of 2013, any person who is mentally challenged or of an unsound mind is not punished under this section. With the regulation of 2018 the person is not liable of any offence as he/she is deemed to be under severe stress and must not be tried.⁴⁸

A petition was filed in the honourable apex court regarding the infamous Aruna Shanbaug case (Aruna Ramchandra Shanbaug vs. Union of India and Ors⁴⁹). In this case, Aruna was a staff nurse in the KEM Hospital, Mumbai, where on the unfortunate night of 27.11.1973, she was anally raped and dog-chained on the neck by the sweeper of the same hospital. Due to dog chaining the oxygen supply was cut off to her brain and she went into Permanent Vegetative State for the next 42 years.⁵⁰ An activist and journalist, Pinky Virani filled a case on her behalf and the court, keeping in view the merciful condition of Ms Aruna Shanbaug, ruled and allowed Passive Euthanasia in the country, explaining, that it means: withdrawing or discontinuing the medical support, to the person, that is essential for life continuation. The Apex Court rejected the plea of Euthanasia, but allowed passive Euthanasia in the country.⁵¹

In his study of suicide, Durkheim presented us with the first methodological analysis of suicide as a social fact. He also presented examples that how a sociological monograph should be like.

Durkheim presented that along with mental disorders, social problems and phenomena are a cause of increase of rate of suicide in any given society.⁵²

Suicide does not only impacts a particular group like family, community, etc. but it also has an impact on a larger scale as well like in the society. Any society in which the attempts of suicide are high, is seen a speck on the society globally, like Lithuania has the highest rate of suicides.⁵³ A kind of disharmony also arises in among the societies because of growing number of suicide attempts.⁵⁴

Whitney Pope too criticized the theory of suicide given by Durkheim. He explained that he fell short on clearly presenting the independence of the given concepts. He also gave that there is a blur mark between social integration and societal regulation that is a result of Durkheim's misrepresenting thesis and conclusion⁵⁵.

In my opinion, the theory of suicide given by Durkheim is still relevant in this date as we can find examples of the same in the present day society. Suicides could be divided on the basis of regulation and integration. Also, I personally do believe that suicide is not completely an individualistic phenomenon but is also affected by social factors. The example that I would like to quote here is of Dr (Ms) Dhanetha, Ludhiana, Punjab. She had a daughter and a son, who lived together in Australia, with due course of time, she got attracted to each other and married resulting in incest. Soon they bore a child and came back to India with the child. After seeing them and child, their mother Ms Dhanetha could not bear the social pressure and committed suicide. Durkheim's theory also lacks at some places. According to Lincoln H. Day, that Durkheim's thesis about rates of suicide is supported completely by neither the stats on suicide and nor on religion, rather he himself collected the data analysed here. He also adds that Durkheim's theory of suicide may still be true but for supporting it, it will require more elaborate and statistical data.⁵⁶It is true that an act of suicide does have a social factor behind it, but it surely depends on a person's mental state too. The growing rate of suicides during the pandemic testifies it. Hence, it can be said that a suicide is a culmination of social and mental factors.

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