

### Kerala hotel worker rendered jobless by COVID-19 lockdown commits suicide

By Gladwin Emmanuel / Updated: Jun 9, 2020, 12:43 IST

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Hotel worker commits suicide.

**Thiruvanthapuram:** A 52-year-old Raju Devasia, who was a waiter at a hotel before the COVID-19 lockdown rendered him jobless, committed suicide by hanging at Vellassery, near Kaduthuruthy in Kottayam district of Kerala on Monday afternoon.

Raju Devasia met his bed-ridden mother at their ancestral house at Vellassery before entering another room where he tied a rope to the ceiling and hanged himself.

He left a suicide note narrating his grievances. Police claimed the note has no direct reference to chief minister Pinarayi Vijayan though there is a plea not to let his family down.

Raju has been working as a waiter in a hotel for the past 14 years, say sources.



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Soon after the COVID-19 lockdown came into force he lost his job. He couldn't pay house rent for the last four months. He also found it difficult to find money to run the day-to-day affairs of the family.

In the suicide note he has allegedly mentioned that he is resorting to the extreme step since he is unable to take care of his family without any income and he has no other option but to end his life. A report suggests he has made an appeal to Kerala chief minister to provide assistance for constructing a house for his family and not to let them down.



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Raju, his wife Sheela, their daughter Angel, studying class 8 and son Emmanuel, studying class 4, were staying in a rental house. He bought 7 cents of land after selling his wife's jewellery. He had reportedly submitted an application to the local panchayat office for financial assistance to construct a house. It was yet to be sanctioned. Raju's mother lives with her younger son Santosh at their ancestral house. Santosh who had gone out, upon his return, found his brother dead by hanging inside a room. The body has been shifted to the Kottayam medical college hospital.

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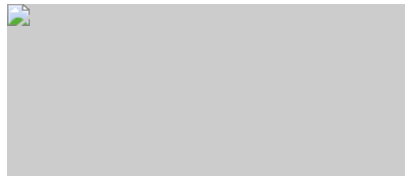
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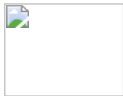
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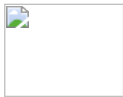
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