



A Study on Relationship between Drugs and Violence in Society

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Abstract: Drug-related crimes are increasing day by day with globalization at the international level. The new ways and opportunities for drug trade and the establishment of a black market of drugs lead to an increase in crimes in society. The demand for narcotic drugs had been in existence for a long period of time, and it can be traced back to almost a thousand years, although it was only around the 1960s that the drug industry took full flight.

This paper will discuss the drug flow in Colombia, as it is observed that the drug lords of Colombia engaged in drug trafficking only with the experience that they had gained from trafficking cigarettes in the 1950s and marijuana in the 1960s. The drug flows in Libya are usually from Morocco, then being transported to Libya, then to Egypt, and then to Europe, travelling through the Balkans.

The aim and purpose of this paper is to understand how there is drug flow in countries like Peru, Colombia, and Libya in order to show that the trafficking of drugs is not just a problem specific to a country, as it is an issue all over the world. With the establishment of the black market, drug trading and drug mule became even more profitable and enabling the corporation among various drug cartels. Since drugs and violence go hand in hand, it raises a big issue, as many drug cartels often use violence for the drug trade. Since young people are inexperienced and curious, they often fall victim to drugs, and so this paper will explore the experience and attitude toward drug consumption by young people.

Key Words: Drug, globalization, drug flow, violence, young people.

1. INTRODUCTION:

Drug-related crimes have become a persistent and dangerous global issue for many decades, leading to worldwide efforts to combat the problem. Despite years of attempts, there has been little effective control over the consumption of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. The rise of powerful drug smugglers, who maintain control over drug production and cultivation, has further intensified the problem. This ongoing issue highlights the need for re-evaluation of strategies and a deeper understanding of the factors driving drug-related crimes, which this paper aims to address.

The current judicial trend is to ensure proper standardized guidelines to distinguish between users and traffickers. The establishment of dark net markets and the usage of crypto currency for transactions have led to new judicial strategies like digital surveillance and cybercrime task forces.

This paper will mostly focus on doctrinal research. The researcher has collected secondary data from reputable articles, journals, books, etc.

This paper will evaluate how drug-related crimes and the illicit drug trade escalate in countries such as Peru, Colombia, and Libya, examining the influence of organized criminal groups and the link between increased violence and drug activity. It will analyze the impact of easy drug accessibility on society, particularly focusing on youth consumption and its consequences. The central argument is that the ineffectiveness of current policies can be traced to the interplay between organized crime, social factors, and regulatory challenges.

This paper examines the attitude of young people when dealing with drugs.

2. HISTORY:

The demand for each market is for goods or services. The request for narcotic drugs was found for almost a thousand years, although it was only until the 1960s that the drug industry took full flight. Around the late 1960s, throughout the movement of



countercultural movement in the United States, the prior social stigmatizations of narcotic drugs began to withdraw as the usage of recreational drugs became more and more fashionable, also representing social rebellion. Even in Western Europe, the demand for it was spread out gradually. This led many International “entrepreneurs” to take the chance to satisfy the growing need and leading to global drug production reaching new heights.

The arrival of economic globalization was accepted by the unlawful drug business markets, like that by the legitimate business. The major decrease in the cost of transportation, as well as a decrease in trade barriers, became the objectives of the drug industries in the world. The drug trade, being regarded as illegal, is different from other lawful trades. It is necessary to understand all the aspects of the drug trade, as it also performs a crucial role in the success of the drug industry. As every country regards drugs to be unlawful may whether it be consumption, cultivation, production, or supply of narcotic drugs like marijuana and cocaine.

In the United States, cocaine and marijuana were regarded as unlawful in 1914 and 1937, respectively. This step caused a chain reaction as it caused the formation of an underground market. The risk of being imprisoned for any drug-related crimes ultimately led to a rise in the production costs because producers, cultivators must take various steps, process to avoid detection, resulting in fewer market suppliers establishing a monopolistic industry, and then the producers can significantly raise the cost of any narcotic drugs available in the market, making it a very profitable business.

One justification for narcotic drugs across the borders is due to enforced scattering. Once specific narcotic drugs turn out to be barred or prohibited, ever since 1912, there has been a sequence of international conventions relating to opiates, which usually quickly spread beyond scattered areas where manufacturing could be hidden in safety. The drug business turned into Trafficking, and the recently specified offense of narcotics drug trafficking in the end was stigmatized in the West as it was considered to be a malicious crime.

Until around the year 1950s, with the exception of firmly governed Provinces, most at the international level were not efficiently enclosed under the structure of prohibition, which was not merged until the collectively accepted United Nations Single Convention, 1961 on Narcotic Drugs. This treaty has been the ideology of the United States of America since 1912, of following the source of the narcotic drugs and destroying raw materials. So, it was observed that subsequent to 1960, no legal transboundary secure place for narcotic drugs was left. The factors like lack of implementation or inducement, or a certain amount of cultural acceptance, caused a rough narcotic drug authoritative area. Furthermore, the slow movement of police to drug-prone borders and the lack of information and strategy sharing led to an increase in drug trafficking. Also, worldwide expansion of agents of drugs (usually from the United States of America, the United Nations, or Interpol) showed a steady concern, which did not attain any noteworthy accomplishment prior to the 1970s. Since then, a well-known trend started to appear due to much better policing at international border areas, or transversely pursuing the drug smugglers, or cultivators, which ultimately led to a larger scattering of illegal operations into even more unreachable drug areas like deserts, rainforests, and hill regions. Repression of narcotic drugs abruptly increases the illegal earnings and the progression in smuggling tactics, and when it is added with Diplomatic reasons in determining where narcotic drugs would end up flowing.

During the late 1990s and early 2000s, Libya was known to be a transportation hub and small market for illegal narcotic drugs, specifically for items like cannabis imported from Morocco. Prior to 2011 in Libya’s coastal cities, various other drugs such as heroin and cocaine had little niche markets, indicating rather tiny flows. Although after 2011, significant changes were observed in the drug flows as well as local markets. Even though the authorities of Libyan and drug traffickers spoke generally about “narcotic drugs,” a difference must be established between unlawful narcotic drugs and unlawful flows of prescription medicine. Many steps regarding substances abused are observed under various international conventions for drug control. In spite of these international conventions, the unlawful smuggling as well as consumption of prescription medicine/drug for the purpose of nonmedical use has spiked, following global trends. Narcotic drug smuggling is found to further cross paths with the other flows may that be both lawful and unlawful, establishing a hierarchy of unlawful markets that advance continuously beside the dynamics of conflict.

Law is a living process, which is subject to many changes according to the changes observed in society, ethics, science, and so on. The legal system must have the capacity to advance as long as they do not infringe fundamental legal principles and is considered to be good for a society.

3. RISE OF DRUG-RELATED CRIMES:

The law regarding the prohibition of drugs is based on the view that some narcotic drugs, specifically opium poppy, coca, and other substances, have the capability of being so addictive that they can be considered to be dangerous, in terms of their adverse effects upon health, morality, and user behaviour. It is observed that practically in no way has there been a drug-free society, and with the passage of time, manufacturers of new drugs have increased every year. The efforts for decreasing the demand for drugs relying on sincere education and optimistic substitutes to drug users are found to be very helpful, but it cannot be said when they will resort to an impractical, "zero tolerance" strategy.

With the recent development, the world economy has undergone huge changes. Since the sharing of ideas and technology at the global level has enabled new ways for trade, establishment of new markets, and increasing others. However, it also increased in a complex network of illegal markets ranging from narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances, and arms smuggling. It can be said that globalization also created illegal industries, or black markets. Globalization represents some of the most serious problems to societies as it has the capability of jeopardizing global safety and security.

There are various factors that determine political capital that aggressive groups obtain their funding from unlawful acts, are given below: -



❖ **The condition of the economy-**

It is stated that people having poor or rich financial conditions can be differentiated if they have other sources of income, and there are also some quantity of people in an area who are found to be dependent upon the finances obtained from unlawful activities for their basic livelihood.

❖ **The nature of the unlawful economy-**

The people involved with the production and cultivation of illegal plantations of poppy plants in Afghanistan and coca in Colombia are found to be very hard physical laborers, and estimates to provide employment to millions of people in their countries, similarly Myanmar which is known for manufacturing methamphetamines from ephedrine is sponsored by the United Wa State Army of Myanmar for acquiring their source of regular income.

❖ One factor concerning thuggish traffickers is due to the absence or presence and also the response from the government to the illegal economy (which can vary from repression to laissez-faire to development in rural areas), establishing the degree to which the residents often rely on the belligerents to safeguard and regulate the growth of the illegal economy.

This shows that in order to get favours or create fear among the people, it is clear that the aggressive groups acquire funding from doing various illegal activities, and due to the people responsible for cultivating the poppy plant often relying on belligerent groups for protection, which causes them to support those groups.

4. RELATION BETWEEN DRUG SMUGGLING AND HOSTILITY:

There have been a growing number of cases of smuggling of illegal drugs due to easier availability of drugs to the consumers and loopholes in the security. In certain cases, drug smugglers are spread out throughout the globe and are able to get aid for the narcotic drug trade.

The drug trafficking procedure includes 3 (three) locations, which are as follows: -

- 1) Production state
- 2) Transshipment centre's, which may include one or more states
- 3) Consumption state

The entire mission revolves around the fact that the smugglers had to deliver the goods to the consumer as efficiently as possible, far from the eye of the law. Being the most crucial part in the process, it is considered the well-paid part. It is observed that the unlawful characteristic of drug trade is strongly correlated to one serious factor, i.e violence.

It can be stated that there is a very close relationship between the smuggling of drugs and hostility, which can be regarded as deeply entwined. It has the tendency to fuel various violence and leads to cycles of hostility, flux, and doubt across the various borders, also among different communities. Nowadays, with the arrival of transnational criminal organizations, the whole scene of smuggling of drugs has changed as it prospers in areas where governance is weak, high poverty, and an abundance of conflict. These factors became the bedrock for illegal smuggling, also increasing the hostility among various rival gangs and issues with law enforcement.

The way is found to overlap with zones of political unrest, where armed groups use profits gained from drug-related crimes to support insurgencies or retain control over the territory. This ends up creating unstable surroundings where hostility becomes an instrument for supremacy, and civilians end up being caught in the crossfire. Those Communities that are affected by the trafficking of drugs often experience elevated tensions, as crackdowns of law enforcement are believed to be as repressive, oppressive or biased.

International relations are also affected as Nations accused of harboring drug traffickers or being unable to reduce drug smuggling are to face political damage, sanctions being imposed against them, or military involvement. Thus, it shows that drug trafficking and various drug-related crimes not only weaken local societies but also cause geopolitical aggression.

In the present drug market, Mexico is making most headlines when it comes to violent smuggling. In Mexico between 2006 and 2009, many people were murdered in drug-related violence and crimes, suspected to be over 13,000 (Thirteen thousand) people. In Mexico (in 2008) it is observed that from the data available publicly around 6,290 people had expired due to various drug-related crimes resulting in violence. In private some officials had reported to have exceeded and may be around 9,000 deaths.

It can be stated that the Golden Triangle and the Golden Crescent in Asia, known for the cultivation and production of various kinds of drugs and psychotropic substances, are setting foot in newly emerging markets in West Africa. The following figure shows the most famous drug smuggling routes. Shockingly, the drug trade is very closely related to other unlawful markets and problems, such as human trafficking, terrorism, and arms. Drugs being regarded as unlawful can be considered the root cause of the rise in the number of violent crimes. Even the United Nations admitted that prohibition had indeed resulted in violence. It can be stated that the strongest case alongside drug control is the violent behavior, as well as corruption connected with the black market.



Figure 1 Major Narcotics Trafficking Routes and Crop Areas

5. DRUG FLOW IN UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

The government of United States of America had employed various tactics for ensuring the prevention of supply and smuggling of opioids and other forms of drugs. Each year, people travel often travel all over the world as over 60 million people travel to United States of America via 675,000 flight, 370 million people travel through land, and over 6 million people enter via sea, transporting over 400 million tons of cargo. Among this massive travelling and transportation of people as well as products, drug smugglers smuggled their drugs illegally.

Whenever there are disputes between the seller and the buyer, courts as well as other legal mechanisms intervene in order to resolve these disputes. However, when it comes to drugs in the underground black market, the sellers and distributors are not able to receive any legal aid because the drug trade is illegal, and the court would not enforce any contracts regarding unlawful goods.

6. COLOMBIA:

Colombian cartels and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) are considered to be one of the most feared cartels known for their violence. In Colombia, around the 1970s, cocaine smuggling started combining forces in order to form loosely connected cartels like the Cali Cartel and the Medellin Cartel. It was like business models revolutionised the supply of cocaine in the Americas. These operations were headed by criminals such as Pablo Escobar, and they would get rid of threats to their businesses at any cost. The cartels would often kidnap well-known figures, eliminate candidates who had promised to end cartels, and bomb public places at random.

In 1966, the Colombian FARC was established as a Marxist guerrilla organisation. In the 1970s and 1980s, FARC and Colombian cartels joined forces for the protection of the unlawful drug industry, making profits out of it by taxing drug cultivators. The organisation committed various violent crimes to further its actions, like those of cartels. Even now, FARC remains strong and is focusing more on the production and preparation of cocaine and has committed even more criminal deeds, such as kidnappings.

DRUG FLOW IN COLOMBIA:

The existence of perennial legal issues has led to an increase in illegal drug trades. Around the year 1970s, the drug lords of Colombia started with a prime spot and with the experience gained from trafficking cigarettes in the 1950s and marijuana in the 1960s. They also capitalised on the new track of undocumented and off-the-record Colombian emigrant Labourers in Miami and New York. It was found that Amphetamine or "speed" was also following the trucking path nearly everywhere. Drugs are considered to be appropriate for distant trade, and they are regarded as having astonishingly high value, which more than reimburses for their expenses for consignment. Only precious stones like diamonds or emeralds are regarded as of high value and can be transported with such worldwide ease.

From this standpoint, the original flow of narcotic drugs was created due to the wide boundaries and annoyance of superimpositions with the emergence of modern states after 1700. In the 20th century, borders were advanced into a hindrance course, as narcotic drugs became labelled, banned, and closely followed by Western powers. Due to its potential to accumulate a huge price tag due to its rising demand and its tendency for habit-forming items, once unlawful to trade, drugs effortlessly evade their risk through new ways of trafficking. Furthermore, highly concentrated advanced modern drugs (like heroin or cocaine) are physically very simple to hide, nothing like the massive silks or packs of cigarettes of earlier illegal business. It is stated that, with the risk of being caught by the authority, it is evident that only a portion of consignments are likely to be seized, around 10 to 30 % in official guesses. Once there is a cycle of regarding illegal tag on drugs and under chase-em-down drug wars, it is stated that first with post-war heroin from the Middle East, then with 1970s cocaine from Andean, the amount of such illegal narcotic drugs



production increase at an astonishing rate but their value or market price decreases, which ends up being easily obtainable for the people.

Colombia, being considered to be the world's major manufacturer of cocaine, is repeatedly regarded as the model for the conventional government view of insurgency and narcotic drugs. Many belligerent groups were found in Colombia, like the famous leftist group Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia (Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia [FARC]), which had increased radically as a result of their involvement with the drug trade. Colombia has been the centre of the most severe and unlawful economic and belligerent prolonged campaign in history—an endeavour that is frequently attributed to causing the demise of the FARC. However, a meticulous study disrupts the traditional way of thinking. Destruction of Erythroxylon coca or cultivation of Coca had minimal impact upon the FARC. The triumph of the Insurgent suppression effort can be traced to direct military pressure

In the present time Colombia can be considered as a good example as due to the legitimacy of Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia (Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia [FARC]) considered as leftist guerrilla group, subsequent to decades of conflict, clashes, being at a lowest point. The political ideology of the group was in decline due to changes at the international level, and there was also a decline in the socialist ideologies and intellectual leadership. FARC's being separated. In the present times, the Colombian military is putting huge pressure on the FARC.

Around the mid-1990s, due to the demise of the Medellín and Cali cartels and the reduction of the strength of the FARC due to its involvement in the trade relating to drugs, the leadership was resolved to get rid of many traffickers from the territories and take over their trade. It resulted in the group unintentionally removing a key source of its political capital. The FARC positions itself as a brutal monopolist that establishes the amount, restricts the customers to whom the people can trade coca paste, and also imposes mistreatment upon the rural residents.

By August 2023, it was observed that around 17,670 (Seventeen thousand six hundred seventy) people had been punished through imprisonment for committing various drug-related crimes. Among them, many were cultivators, traffickers, small-time dealers and consumers, etc. The Observatory for Drugs of Colombia estimates that around 3.8 billion dollars was spent annually on fighting against the smuggling of drug.

7. ILLEGAL DRUG FLOWS IN LIBYA:

It is observed that understanding the ins and outs of a huge range of unlawful drug flows for ecstasy, cannabis, cocaine, heroin, and amphetamines gives insight into who controls the market, which areas are regarded as transportation points and final destinations for specific narcotic drugs, and the reaction of local actors while dealing with external flows.

1) Cannabis

It is observed that many blocks relating to resin of cannabis from Morocco are being transported to Libya, then to Egypt and then to Europe, travelling through the Balkans. The consignment is likely to flow through southern Algeria, from time to time going into northern Niger, and enter Libya through the so-called Salvador Pass, where the international borders of Libya, Algeria, and Niger come together in an ungoverned desert.

2) Cocaine

It is observed that in Libya, usually the transportation is seasonal, as it is done near the end of winter and the beginning of spring. Cocaine flows are less common but are in much larger quantities; well-guarded convoys are separate from other narcotic drugs and illegal smuggling. The cocaine flows generally start from Latin America, and travel through sea or air to West Africa, where they would then travel through the Sahel and into Libya.

8. DRUG FLOW IN PERU:

Mainly in the ceja de selva, Peru, coca was harvested by tradition, as the plant is not suitable for the climate of the Amazon. The requirement for the establishment of a narcotic drug industry is to be capable enough to function properly, as an area is needed that is not, or at any rate not efficiently put under state control, like Peru's Amazon Lowlands. It is observed that many Drug lords, cultivators and producers of drugs often try to gain benefit from the flaws of the regional state to set up Coca plantations and cocaine laboratories. A small town by the name Caballococha, which is situated on the Amazon, only a few hours away from the tri-border (consisting of Peru, Brazil, and Colombia), became a place for meeting for those persons involved with the drug trade, while the native communities of Tikuna were developed into one of Peru's most prosperous narcotic drug production areas.

From the Frontier to the Border: Transnational Connections Followed by Mafia style Deals

For many eras, Peruvians and many foreigners had depicted the jungle areas as uncharted, cut off, and having overwhelming surroundings. It is believed that places like ceja de selva and the Amazon Lowlands are regarded as a ruthless environment that makes the explorers and colonists face various hurdles, and also due to their intense climate, dangerous waterways and a horde of insects. When all these factors are put together with their difficult environment, delicate regional state conditions mould certain areas to be very crucial centres for the drug trade.

It is observed that during the early 1960s, the Carretera Marginal (Marginal Highway) was completed, which made more individuals relocate near the region's inner reaches, and the Fósforo district was also included. Around the 1970s, it was found that many migrants were engaged with the plantation and cultivation of coca, while firms had firm control over the raw cocaine production process and organised consignment, by means of river to the tri-border to trade the product. In the Upper Huallaga, the



expansion of narcotic drug production and cultivation coincides with the additional complicated task of Colombian smuggling groups. The firms often confront a lot of competition, which shaped a division of labour, with the workers mostly divided into Peruvian manufacturers and foreign smugglers. The drug smugglers formed an 'air bridge' amid the PBC-processing frontier and the borderlands. It was found that among Putumayo and the River Amazon, including Peru's Amazon Lowlands, a large number of cocaine laboratories were established. And Leticia became a centre for re-shipment of narcotic drugs to Medellín, Bogotá, and Cali.

In the 1980s, Peru and the United States initiated an effort to eradicate coca. Still, it proved clumsy, as in the valley, there was a substantial contribution to the cohesion of the guerrilla-coca association.

During early 1980s the attempts made by United States of America and Peru were not up to the satisfied level as it was considered to be clumsy that which was pointed for of reduction in drug supply to be a political precedence, pressured Peru into a sequence of control plan intended at wipe out coca as local police had perform a large amount of work with logistical aid given by the United States of America's Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA). However, these plans were found to be unsuccessful, showing only a minute decrease in the local areas as a whole; plantation and cultivation were on the rise. Ultimately, it led to aggression amongst the local farmers, who found no success in resisting the destruction of the drugs, and they embarked on a path of aggression, which only intensified in the late 1980s.

9. YOUTH'S ATTITUDES AND EXPERIENCES WHILE DEALING WITH DRUGS:

Consumption of drugs and then formation of dependency on drugs is quite popular among youth, and it can be defined as the state of uncontrollable desire to consume drugs on a regular basis in order to experience certain effects, and occasionally to avoid the uneasiness. They can be categorised by their behavioural characteristics and other responses. A person may be dependent upon more than one kind of drug.

The insight of young individual regarding the risks related to the consumption of narcotic drugs is closely interconnected with their experience of narcotic drugs. It is often observed that attitudes and experiences regarding narcotic drugs differ based on a person's characteristics, e.g. gender (males were more prone to narcotic drug-positive and consumption of narcotic drugs than females), in search of sensation, willingness for risk, enjoyment in the club scene, etc.

In the past few decades, several scholars have been greatly concerned about how excitement, enjoyment and not only perception of risk should be taken into consideration when trying to understand young individuals' consumption of narcotic drugs. They had condemned the prior research for being too concerned with risk-unawareness and risk-awareness among young individuals, resulting in ignorance of positive expectations and experiences of young individuals.

It is understood that often young individuals are more interested in narcotic drugs, not necessarily because they are ignorant of the risks that come with the consumption of unlawful narcotic drugs, but due to the enjoyment they acquire or anticipate acquiring from their use.

10. CONCLUSION:

The unlawful drug trade and trafficking is considered to be a serious problem, one that took flight on the wings of prohibition and globalisation. The war on drugs and many years of unsuccessful drug policies resulted in unsatisfactory outcomes.

While several efforts had been observed even at the level of international order to end the drug smuggling problem, they have yielded only insignificant success. It is necessary to understand that a successful law framework to destabilising the global black market and solving the drug trafficking problem is necessary.

Even now, after so much effort and years of failure to maintain an efficient control over the consumption and usage of various narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, it has become a serious problem for the Governments and law-enforcing agencies.

It is necessary to understand the growing problem of drug-related crimes because, with the development and progress in society, it leads to the globalisation of drug trafficking. Drug-related crimes may be of cultivation, production and distribution. They often go along with violence, which makes a serious problem in society.

In order to deal with this nexus, it entails co-operation at the international level, reinforcement of legal frameworks, endorsement of various economic options, and development of trust between citizens and governments. It is required that something must be done to eliminate this issue, as one thing is very clear: the problem of drug smuggling and drug-related crimes would not go away without decisive and strict action.

It is suggested that to mitigate drug-related crimes include imposing stringent punishments on traffickers, strengthening law enforcement agencies, and raising public awareness about the harmful effects of drugs on society. These actions would help curb drug-related crimes in our society.

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