

The Main Factors Increasing Drug Trafficking

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Drug trafficking is one of the main catastrophes of the contemporary world today. Increasing of drug trafficking cause increasing of other terrible criminal activities such as murder, robbery, extortion or blackmail and also transnational crimes, including human trafficking, terrorism, corruption, money laundering proportionally. There are many factors that cause increasing of drug trafficking such as economic crisis, corruption, problem of border control, geographical proximity, political disorder and anti-governmental insurgency, drug policy of states, migration and etc.

According to the United Nations Convention against illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances dated 1988, "Narcotic drug" means any of the substances, natural or synthetic, in Schedules I and II of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs in 1961, and that Convention as amended by the 1972 Protocol Amending the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs in 1961. "Psychotropic substance" means any substance, natural or synthetic, or any natural material in Schedules I, II, III and IV of the Convention on Psychotropic Substances, 1971. Drug trafficking is one of the fastest increasing type of transnational crime in the world. Drug trafficking is usually conducted by transnational organized criminal groups unlawfully. In some countries drug trafficking is more than other countries. There are following factors that affect increasing of drug trafficking in some region or country;

GEOGRAPHICAL PROXIMITY: Geographical proximity with the supplier states makes the country become a transit state of illicit trafficking of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. According to the United Nations Convention against illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances dated 1988, "Transit State" means a State through the territory of which illicit narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances are being moved, which is neither the place of origin nor the place of ultimate destination thereof. Tajikistan has a geographical proximity with Afghanistan. Afghanistan is the world's largest supplier of illicit opiates. A large number of drugs and psychotropic substances are smuggled into Europe from Asia. The main source of these drugs is Afghanistan as a supplier state. Farmers in Afghanistan produce drugs which are smuggled into the West and central Asia illegally. Tajikistan's southern edge and Afghanistan's northern edge abut, creating a porous border of over 1,200 kilometers. Tajikistan is now a transit state of Afghanistan in being the most dependent country on the illicit drug industry. Geographical proximity is not sufficient to become a transit state of drug trafficking. Geographical proximity can be more than one country with a supplier state, but all these countries will not become a transit state. There should be the other reasons in these states also.

ECONOMIC CRISIS: Economically weak countries are more sensitive drug trafficking than other countries which do not suffer from economic crisis. For restoring the economical stability economically weak states allow, even help drug trafficking in their country. Drug traffickers use economically weak situation of

these countries and promise these countries financial advantages instead of assist of these countries for their criminal activity. For these benefits, economically weak states accept the “cooperation” with drug traffickers. The citizens of economically weak countries are more vulnerable to use narcotic drugs or psychotropic substances because of their low-provided life conditions. Thus, economic problems involve both State and individuals that have economic problems to take part in illicit trafficking of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and also using them. Solving economical problems of the state legally cause decreasing of drug trafficking, because in this case a State will not need to cooperate drug traffickers for its economical problems.

THE PROBLEM OF BORDER CONTROL : One of the main issues is to control the borders of the state with all countries in the regardless of whether it is a supplier state or not. It helps the countries to protect the state to be the transit country of drug trafficking. Controlling the borders suppress not only illicit trafficking of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, but also other transnational criminal activities, such as human trafficking, smuggling, terrorism and etc. The problem of border control is reflected in 2 issues: 1) weak border control or deficits in border control 2) corruption among the public officials in the border office.

CORRUPTION: Crimes, transnational crimes, including illicit trafficking of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances is related to corruption offences. Drug traffickers bribe public officials in many areas to conduct their illegal activity on drug trafficking. Drug traffickers bribe public officials to be free of any barrier on drug trafficking and also bribe for crossing the borders for transferring narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors to other countries. One of the main barriers for illicit trafficking of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and also drug traffickers is police, so they bribe police also for conducting illicit trafficking of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances by the means of transfer, sell, keep, cultivate, involve new victims and etc. The officials of economically weak countries are more vulnerable to bribe and corruption than other countries.

POLITICAL DISORDER AND ANTI-GOVERNMENT INSURGENCY: Countries which suffer from political disorder or anti-government insurgency are more attractive country for drug traffickers than other countries. Because this situation of countries do not let combat against drug trafficking but assist any forms of narcotic crimes and other crimes also. Drug trafficking and increasing of other transnational crimes are also influence the stability of country. The accepted wisdom on drug trafficking suggests that it undermines political stability and fuels anti-government insurgency. According to the United Nations: “drugs are funding insurgency in Central Asia, where the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan, the Islamic Party of Turkmenistan, the East Turkistan Liberation Organization, and other extremist groups are exist” . These extremist groups are profiting from the drug trade. All the extremist groups listed by the United Nations are only active inside Central Asian states. Another example of this argument is Armenia. Political disorder and anti-governmental insurgency is the reason of wide spread drug trafficking in this country.

DRUG POLICY OF STATE: Law enforcement and penalties about drug related crimes reflect the drug policy of the state. Drug policy of the states influences the increasing of drug trafficking. Law enforcement on drug-related crimes in different countries is different. There are two main arguments about prohibition of drugs is efficient or inefficient in the world practice. These arguments affect the law enforcement on drug-related crimes of countries. For instance, in Netherlands drug use is licit.

According to the supporters of the first argument, prohibition deters illicit drug use and 29% of those who had never used cannabis cited the countries where the using of narcotic drugs is prohibited . Controls and prohibitions help to keep prices higher, and higher prices help keep use rates relatively low, since drug use, especially among young people, is known to be sensitive to price. Illicit trafficking of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances is less existed in countries that drug using is prohibited than drug free countries.

The supporters of the second argument stresses that, drug free countries, such as Netherlands, although using of soft drugs are free,

it helps the using and trafficking of hard drugs (specifically cocaine and synthetic drugs) to decrease . Decreasing of hard drugs such as cocaine, synthetic drugs, doesn't also decrease trafficking of soft drugs but helps increasing trafficking of soft drugs. In the Netherlands, the using of drugs is legal, which is one type of drug-related crimes . Drug-related crimes include trafficking, cultivating, producing, manufacturing, distributing, possessing, selling and these are criminalized activities. It means that, drug trafficking is a criminalized activity in Netherlands also. Although drug trafficking is not illegal in this country, but free using of drugs influences increasing of drug trafficking.

Thirty-two countries impose capital punishment or death penalty for the offences involving narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances such as, Afghanistan, Iran, China, India, Pakistan etc . Although in drug-free countries is inefficient for preventing drug trafficking, but so severe penalties such as capital punishment in some countries is inefficient for drug trafficking also. Because, the list of countries which concern capital punishment for illicit trafficking of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances are the most active participants of drug trafficking activity and transit states such as Tajikistan, Iran etc.

MIGRATION: human migration is the movement of people from one place to another with the purpose of settling permanently in the new place . This movement can be over long distances and from one country to another and inside a country. Human migration has its negative impacts in some spheres. Human migration causes a number of negative effects including social, economic, educational, environmental and other problems. Economical and social problems of migrants make them commit crimes, including crimes related narcotics. Due to economical and social problems migrants attempt to take part in the selling, using, manufacturing, cultivating, distribution or trafficking of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances as a means of solve their economical problems. This tendency is observed among the illicit migrants. Legal migrants can also be the participant of illicit drug trafficking and other crimes but not as much as illicit migrants. Thus, by the suppression of illicit migration States also prevent illicit trafficking

of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and other criminal activities inside the country.

WEEK STRUGGLE AGAINST MONEY LAUNDERING: Illicit drug trafficking is a predicate offence of money laundering. A predicate offense is an action that provides the basis for another criminal act. It means that, benefits from illicit drug trafficking is "dirty money" and should be removed from financial system by the States. The trade in illicit drugs is estimated to be worth \$400 billion a year, and it accounts for 8% of all international trade, according to the United Nations .

Defining the increasing factors that increase illicit trafficking of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances help provide strategy and policy of drug trafficking for each country. Geographical proximity, economic crisis, problem of border control, corruption, political disorder and anti-government insurgency, drug policy, migration and etc. are the increasing factors of illicit trafficking of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. States that suffer from illicit trafficking of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances can decrease even remove this problem by solving problem of border control, economic crisis, political disorder and anti-government insurgency, corruption, illicit migration, deficits of drug policy in the country. States that do not suffer from illicit trafficking of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances should also focus on these problems not to have any deficits for the suppression of this problem in the future. Drug use prevention programmes are effective when they respond to the needs of a community, involve all the relevant sectors and are based on scientific evidence; effective programmes should also incorporate strong monitoring and evaluation components. Such programmes are also cost effective. It has been shown that, for every dollar spent, good programmes for the prevention of drug use among youth can save up to 10 dollars .

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