



A CRITICAL ANALYSIS OF THE EFFECT OF DRUG TRAFFIC ON PAK-AFGHAN RELATIONSHIPS

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ABSTRACT

Afghanistan produces the most opium of high grade, whereas Pakistan is a major consumer, transshipment site, and regional player in the drug trade. Blaming Afghanistan for drug smuggling into Pakistan exacerbates tensions between the two countries, which are already strained due to militant infiltration across the border. The current article focuses on the problem of drug trafficking between Afghanistan and Pakistan. It is attempting to develop effective solutions to solve the issue in order to decrease the negative effects of the drug trade on their bilateral relations. Furthermore, it suggests a regional strategy for dealing with the problem. To eliminate poppy growing in Afghanistan and its infiltration into Pakistan, Pakistan and Afghanistan must work together as a single entity.

KEYWORDS: Drug traffic, Pakistan, Afghanistan.

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INTRODUCTION:

Addiction has a long history, as evidenced by a description of opium production and manufacture in Sumerian clay tablets, which were argued around 7,000 years ago (Zacken, 1988). Archaeological evidence reveals that the Sumerians used poppy-based medications to cure a variety of ailments more than 5,000 years ago in Mesopotamia (what is now Iraq). The art of splitting the flowering bulb of the poppy plant to harvest and dry milky liquids was later passed down to the Assyrians and then the Babylonians (Zacken, 1998). Physicians lauded the poppy's healing properties, and its use in the home expanded throughout their civilization. Hippocrates, a Greek physician, was one of

the first to describe the use of opium for therapeutic purposes. In Pakistan, the introduction of pharmaceuticals has a socio-political history. The use of drugs by humans is a very old phenomenon, according to historical evidence. Plant extracts were utilized to alleviate pain and anxiety. Despite the fact that people were highly reliant on the use of such substances, it was not considered a social problem until recently. The use of drugs increased substantially throughout the era of industrialization and modernization, impacting a significant number of individuals and thus becoming a severe societal problem. Other than food, drugs are substances that are consumed to alter the way the body or mind functions. Similarly, drug addiction is defined as

the use of any substance to alter a person's physical or mental capacities. Various drugs on the basis of their effects are categorized as Depressants, (Opium, Morphine, Codeine, Heroin, Methadone, and Other Narcotics) Stimulants, (Barbiturates, Benzodiazepines, and Methaqualone) Hallucinogens, (Cocaine, LSD, Mescaline and Peyote, other hallucinogens); Cannabis (Marijuana, Hashish, and Hashish Oil) and these are commonly used worldwide (Prashant,1991). Drug addiction is defined as the continued use of illegal drugs that leads to reliance on the drug and the addict's fear of experiencing pain or discomfort if he or she stops using the drug (ibid: 1991; Clinard and Meier 1995). The drug abuse pattern in Pakistan has shifted twice in the last 35 years. Opium, bhang, chars (hashish), and alcohol were widely used by low-income people in the 1960s. Only 5000 heavy drug addicts were reported in 1983. When Heroin was introduced in the 1980s, a second modification in drug misuse pattern was seen. The number of drug addicts surged from 20,000 in 1980 to 365,000 in 1985 in just five years. In Pakistan, there were more than 2 million heroin addicts. In 1993, the number of addicts had risen to 3.1 million. According to a 2002 poll, heroin was the most commonly used substance, with around 2.1 million people using it. With an increase of one million drug users in only eight years, the overall number of drug users has risen to 4.1 million, accounting for (2.8 percent) of the total population. The number of drug users has now surpassed 8 million (Quraishi et al., 2003).

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Position in Adjacent Countries:

It supplies 90 percent of the world's opium and heroin need. Because of their proximity to Afghanistan, all of the region's countries, particularly Pakistan, are heavily involved in the trafficking of Afghan opiates Opium output in 2007, 2008, and 2009 was predicted to be 8200, 7700, and 6900 metric tons, respectively.

Approximately 56 percent of global opium production is smuggled as morphine and heroin, according to estimates. It's also estimated that 40% of Afghan opiates are smuggled into Pakistan. Cannabis is grown as a commercial crop in Afghanistan's Northern provinces. In 2009, the UNODC conducted the first complete survey in Afghanistan, estimating that 20,000 to 25,000 hectares of land were cultivated (UNODC. 2009). As drug trafficking through Pakistan became more common, so did the availability of Afghan drugs in the country. The situation was made worse by an influx of Afghan opium into Pakistan's tribal districts from across the border. The presence of nomadic groups among the 3 million refugees added to the confusion. The usage of opium and heroin has surged along the continually expanding drug trafficking routes. Aside from the old Balkan route connecting Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iran, Turkey, and Europe, a slew of other routes have developed. Iran is located in the Middle East, between Iran and Pakistan, it is bordered by the Gulf of Oman, the Persian Gulf, and the Caspian Sea. Iran has a population of 65,875,224 people, and the adult HIV/AIDS prevalence rate was 0.2 percent in 2005. People living with HIV/AIDS, on the other hand, numbered 66,000 in 2005 (UNODC. 2009).

Utilization:

With a population of 170 million people, Pakistan is the second most populous country in South Asia. It has a similar demographic and health profile to the rest of South Asia, with high newborn and maternal death rates, low literacy, and limited access to health care. Furthermore, spending on the rising problem of drug dependence HIV/AIDS induced by injecting drug use is diluting an already stretched health budget. Drug abuse surveys undertaken in 1980, Drug Addiction in South Asia 1601982, 1988, 1993, 2000, and 2006 show a 7% annual increase in the number of people abusing drugs. According to the 2006 National Assessment Report on Problem Drug Use in Pakistan, there are 628,000 opiate users in the country. Around 482,000 (77%) of them are heroin addicts. Given Afghanistan's tremendous increase in opium and heroin production, the drop in the number of opiate addicts over the last six years is a significant achievement. In 2006, however, the number of injecting drug users (IDUs) was projected to reach 125,000, more than double the figure for 2000. This is concerning, particularly in terms of the potential of HIV/AIDS transmission (UNODC. 2006). Opiate use is prevalent in 0.4 percent of Punjab and Sindh provinces, 0.7 percent of KPK provinces, and 1.1 percent of Baluchistan provinces. Afghanistan is directly bordered by the latter two provinces. While the total prevalence of usage in Pakistan has remained stable, the proportion of injecting drug users has climbed from 15% in 2000 to 29% in 2006 (UNODC. 2006).

The manufacturing and refinement of narcotics in Afghanistan has a significant influence on Pakistan:

The manufacturing and refinement of narcotics in Afghanistan has a significant impact on Pakistan. According to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime's Afghanistan Opium Survey 2007, Kandahar, Nirmoz, Nangarhar, Badakhshan, and Helmand accounted for over 70% of Afghanistan's opium production. Pakistan's geographical location makes it an ideal transit point for human trafficking (UNODCP, 2002). The ANF (Anti-Narcotics Force) has identified the following trends in the trafficking of illicit drugs through Pakistan: Trafficking through unaccompanied baggage; Impregnated letters/soaked apparels; Trafficking of liquid heroin; Hiring of families as couriers; Use of air courier services Convoys through Balochistan, Increased resistance to interdiction efforts; Night movement use of Satellite phones for coordination Through airports trend are concealment in baggage, Concealment by swallowing /ingesting concealment by wrapping around bodies Heroin concealed in shampoo bottles; Increased trafficking of psychotropic injections. Container trafficking is a regular trend across seaports. The porous border between Pakistan and Afghanistan facilitates the trafficking of Afghan drugs across Pakistan to various regions of the world. As a transport route, this circumstance makes it even more vulnerable. Baluchistan's open and sparsely populated terrain, particularly around the coasts of Zhob, Chaman, Taftan, Mand, and Makran, facilitate drug trafficking by motorized convoys and animal transit from southern Afghanistan. These places also serve as dumping

grounds for drugs before they are transported outside of Pakistan.

CONCLUSION:

Addicts have a horrible life since they are in debt because they borrow money from friends, and their poor health necessitates expensive expenditures with low economic performance. re-energizing a robust family system that can supply Addicts should be treated, cared for, and rehabilitated as soon as possible; strict law enforcement should be enforced; addicts should be rewarded after a successful recovery; and political and religious leaders should be involved in raising public awareness about the many causes and effects of drug addiction.

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