Drug Trafficking in India: A Case Study of Punjab

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Abstract:- The concept of drug, drugs abuse, drugs addiction, and chemical substance, psychological affects social, economic, financial impacts. Drug means any substance which affect human body and human nerve system directly or indirectly. The misuse of any drugs may harm the individual and effect on social, economic, financial, and psychological situation of any individual. Paper focused on the consequences of the drugs. And literature reflected the situation of drug abuse in Punjab and India as well. Phenomena of drug abuse will be explored in this paper mainly focus on the youth of Punjab. And find out the main factor for increasing abuse of drug in this area. The issue of drug abuse and drug trafficking is one of the factor which affect international relations and international border with the individual, demographic, economy, cultural, environmental and human rights issues. This issue has emerging challenge to the society and become the new area of conflict in the international relations because it's effect international boundaries. We need to understand the better of mechanisms to control this issue and find out the economic, social and political consequences. The misuse of drugs is an illegal activity and it is very difficult to measure properly or it’s very difficult to give exact data. How many people are affected or addicted? Drug controls agency estimate the value of supply, seized drugs by the police or customs and excise and other state police.

Keywords: - Drugs Trafficking, Punjab, India, Drug Abuse or Substance Abuse, Role of Drug in individual life and its effect, youth, College going students, drug addiction.

I. Introduction

Drug abuse is a most serious and challenging issue for the youth and society. This issue has multi faced. And have the multi effects on social, economic, financial and psychological and mental consequences. In the present situation the illegal drugs become the most profitable crime and become the well plant organized crime in the society. It has the regular market and supply chaos and its spread all over the world and effect the international border. Abuses of drugs are a very serious issue to the society but human are not aware of it. This is not a new problem to society. This is not a serious problem in recent time but it’s become the dangerous situation to the youth of the whole world. Drug abuse is the third largest business in the whole world after the petroleum and arms trade. It is a part organized crime. More than 190 million people are affected or consume the one drug or more than one drug. (Miller, 1993) In the present time, no one country is free from this abuse and the illegal trafficking of drugs and addiction also. Illicit trafficking in the drug is one of the major security challenges for the nation. Drug trafficking is a global illicit trade involving the cultivation, manufacture, distribution, and sale of substances which are subject to drug prohibition laws (World Drug Report, 2010). Drug abuse has become the largest phenomenon in India in last two decades which affect the all societies. It’s like a germ of the society which will affect whole society if it does not prevent on the time. This is a huge organized crime of the world. According to a report, it has the turnover of around $500 billion it is the third largest business in the world, next to petroleum and arms trade. About 190 million people all over the world consume one drug or the other (Miller & Sanchez, 1993).

In Asia these are lots of drug are used by the people. Some of the areas are affected by the use of cannabis. Alcohol, opium, and heroine and some area are affected by the other drugs. In the scene of India, it is the most affected region due to become the sandwich between Golden Triangle and Golden Crescent. And become the most transits zone or become most trafficking country for smuggling of drug. When we think about the opium this is grow in all over the world and all countries. But especially it affects the central and Southeast Asia, Mexico, turkey, Egypt, Eastern Europe and other countries of the Central America. The market of consumption is increasing every fast ratio as new and profitable market in South East Asia And in developing countries.
In the other hand the derivation of cannabis and cannabis are mostly found and in all over the world. The opium rich region known as the Golden Crescent is an area encompassing the mountainous border areas of Afghanistan, Iran, and Pakistan. Opium has been cultivated in this region (Southwest Asia) “since at least the sixteenth century” (Booth, 1996).

India is hemmed between the golden triangle which includes Myanmar (Burma), Laos, Vietnam, and Thailand and the golden crescent which includes Afghanistan, Iran, and Pakistan; two prominent drug producing hubs in the world. India as a natural transit zone faces a major problem of drug trafficking. India is covered with the east and the west by two regions which are international as major sources of illicit opiates namely, South West Asia (Afghanistan and Pakistan) and South-East Asia (Myanmar, Laos, and Thailand). Internationally, India is recognized as an important drug producing nation. Both India and Pakistan act as transit points for the drug trade, which emerges from Afghanistan (Manisha, 2010).

In the present time no country is immune from the drug abuse and drug trade. It is responsible for the human lives and lots of human being affected by this. Almost 183000 peoples are affected and drug related deaths were reported in 2012 by UNODC. According to a report of world health organization in 1994, the illicit drugs are used by men and women vary from country to country. But mostly men are more like than women. Abuses of drugs are increasing day by day in all over the world. There are one million heroin addicts are registered people in India and this is the official data given by United Nations report but unofficially there are more than five million users of heroin in India.

India is a very big country with land borders as well as sea coastal border respectively over more than 15000 kilometres and over 7000 kilometres. Illicit trafficking of drugs produced many crimes in a different form such as organized crime; criminal activities, corruptions as well as it increases the terror activities in the nation. It is the crime which is spreading to the rural area from urban or metropolitan cities. It affects all the group human being like children, adults. Now youth is the most influenced section of the society. Drug abuse mainly affected all sector of the society it increases the violence at homes, it increases the number of divorce cases. Many house holders sell their home for support their addiction, and they faced the problem of food and other social needs in life. Drug abuse is responsible for increasing rate of crimes like theft, prostitution and other organized crime in society as well as educational institutions too. Due to the abuse of drugs labours industry face the problem of low products, absents of the worker, a health problem of worker and most of the important the accidents occur at the industry work places.

The “security” has categorised in two ways, Traditional and Non-Traditional security challenges. Traditional security concern about the state or territory, and they are the direct challenges to the sovereignty of the state. The focus on non-traditional security challenges has been a positive trend in terms of elevating the soft security threats. Environmental degradation, forced migration, international terrorism, and insurgency ascendancy of non-state actors in drugs trafficking, arms, money laundering, financial and crime organization are some example of Non-traditional security issues. Drug Trafficking is one of the most critical issues being faced by any society. It has been defined variously by the scholars.

Punjab is a very rich state and Punjabi culture is a very known for drinking and parties and landowners are mostly supply different drugs for farm labours to encourage them to do work harder. This situation is responsible for increasing drug abuse and drug trafficking. 20 lakh peoples are regular drug abuser in Punjab only. (Dr Deependra Singh) Per head consumption of the alcohol is highest in Punjab. Preliminary study by health department of Punjab says more than 48% youth in 15-25 age groups for addicts. Study says about 48% farmers and labours are drug addicts. And 70% households are affected by drug abuse in Punjab.

The uses of drugs are very dangerous for health of the youth. It increased the risk of cancer and increases the reproductive problems in human being. And increase the risk of cardiovascular disease. (Deependra Singh) According to Rajya Sabha in 2013 390 kg heroine was seized from the Indo Pak border area by Border Security Forces but almost 84% of all the seizer is from Punjab only. And narcotics Control Bureau give the data in which Punjab is on the top in India with Seizer of 50% of all over India. (NCB 2013) According to newspaper down a report was published in which local psychiatric give the report of 130 patient in a day and almost 70-80% patients are drug affected and the local psychiatric indicate the area which is worst affected by drug abuse which area are Majha, Malwa and Doaba. They give the percentage of households affected people by drugs abuse 61% 64% and 68% in Majha, Malwa and Doaba respectively. According to him every third male students and tenth female student have the drug on any occasion in Punjab.

Before 2013 Punjab has only transition point for the drug trafficking but after the failure of economic situations unemployment and loss in agriculture fields the consumption market increase in the state. According to the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act the total number of arrests increases in between 2011 to 2014 from 6125 to 17001 individually. They are all arrests were mostly for the consumption of small quantities. (Sakshi, 2016)
In Punjab, drug addiction is cancer which is crippling the mental and physical wellbeing of the youth population of Punjab. The use or abuse of drugs in one form or the other has lived with the mankind as part of the life for ages. It is the state of five rivers and it has blessed by the Gurus and Sants. It is the state of farming, fertility and the land of prosperity. It is situated in northwest part of India. This state connected with Punjab province of Pakistan. There are six districts connected with Pakistani border. This state has a total geographical area of 50352 sq. km. Punjab shares its 553-km border area with Pakistan and its used as entry points by smuggler for smuggling narcotics in India. This study will focus on the part of Punjab which is connected with the Pakistan border like Gurdaspur, Amritsar, Pathankot, Fazilka, Taran Taran and Firozpur.

According to Rajya Sabha in 2013 BSF seized 390 kg of heroin/smack at various state on Indo-Pak border but more than 84% of these are seized only from the district of Punjab state which has the border with Pakistan. Furthermore, most of the 50% of all over India seized are only from Punjab, according to an NCB report which is published in 2013. Punjab facing the problem of drugs addiction in youth it is the challenge to youth as well as the state and sovereignty of the state. There is no country strange to the drugs but India is more affected due to golden triangle and golden crescent as it is a country which is involved in the drugs supply and the addiction. In the time of colonial rule, the production and cultivation are started and they export the opium from the China. In the context of Punjab, it is the affected state due to its geopolitical disturbance and the pathway of golden crescent which is the producing area of opium in Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Iran also. This state is mainly affected in India’s north-western state which is connected with the border of Pakistan (which is included the six district of Punjab).

Punjab has been no stranger to drugs. Under colonial rule, opium was grown here for export to China and was given to farm workers as an incentive to work faster. Thereafter, the 1970s witnessed two important developments in the international drug trade that particularly affected Punjab (Sawhney, 2014). Punjab is the land of prosperity; fertility and entrepreneurship face a grave challenge today from the spread of drugs. Maqbool Pura, a small village close to Amritsar, epitomizes the problem. It is a village of widows; all the men have died due to substance abuse. News reports claim that drugs are easily available in this village and sold by children as young as 14 years (Phillip, April28, 2007).

In Punjab, an entire generation seems to be in the grip of debilitating addiction brought on by a proliferating drug-trade across the India-Pakistan border. India's geographical proximity to the "Golden Crescent" Asia's main centre of illicit opium production in Afghanistan, Iran, and Pakistan has always made it vulnerable to the effects of drug trafficking. According to a report, drug addiction has multiplied manifold and is a problem for as much as 75 percent of Punjab youth. Drugs destroy the generation of youth of Punjab. They have known for physical ability and stamina. Police must enforce the law effectively, firmly and fairly as this is their primary responsibility. Drug addiction in Punjab has exploded in recent years.

According to NCRB As of September, Punjab police had this year already seized 438 kilos of heroin, 8,553 kilos of poppy husks, and arrested 12,695 people accused of selling drugs. During a militant campaign for an independent Sikh state in the mid-1980s, cross-border drug trafficking began swelling to finance the insurgency. According to NCB data, in 2013, 41% (of 964 kg) of all opium seizures in India took place in Punjab, a sign of the drug’s popularity in the state. A large number of drugs are subsequently sold to users by an extensive network of dealers.

As per the data of Narcotics Control Bureau annual report of 2013 Opium seized by the official were 2,333 kg, but only the Punjab has the largest amount on the top of all state data as well as on the basis of the same report Punjab leads the states in the quantity of Heroin seized, followed by Haryana with 737 kg. According to the Border Security Force, Firozpur recovered a consignment of 10.730 kg of heroin from plastic pipe, 11 packets contained heroin whereas 4 packets contained FICN with a face value of Rs. 11, 90,500 in the denominations of 500 and 1000. The drug was handed over to the narcotics Control Bureau, Chandigarh Zone for action under the NDPS Act (NCB, 2013). The situation in Punjab is the worst one (http://www.livemint.com/Opinion/CbtQvesZxzWezejNXECV8K/Six-charts-that-show-theseriousness-of-Punjabs-drug-proble.html, retrieved on July 12th, 2019 at 11 a.m.).

According to a newspaper, Punjab is India’s narcotic haven. That is a challenging proposition that requires overcoming several obstacles, especially the state where narcotic abuse is the most serious. Punjab Referred to as the granary of India for its agricultural prosperity, Punjab is now besieged by a severe drug problem, which is now roiling its society, economy, and politics. Punjab accounted for almost half of all cases registered in India under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act (NDPS) in 2013, up from just 15% in 2009. As per the state wise NCRB data, Punjab has emerged at the top position with 10,220 registered cases in 2012 followed by Uttar Pradesh with 6,755 cases, Maharashtra, 1,903 cases, Tamil Nadu, 1,402 cases and Rajasthan with 1,115 cases. Another Delhi Police’s narcotic cell official said: "Heroin enters India through Jammu, Amritsar and Rajasthan borders, Charas comes in through Manali, Ganja from Odisha and Jharkhand and cocaine, which is basically produced in Colombia, comes via Africa."

According to the SakshiSawhney (2014), a former research associate with the Delhi Policy group, also found that Punjab acts as a major transit hub for heroin in India. Further that ’Bhukki’, one of the most commonly consumed...
drugs in Punjab, is sourced from the opium fields in Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh. While most of the opium production in these states is legal and supervised by Central Bureau of Narcotics, illicit, pure and adulterated opium continues to be trafficked into bordering Punjab.

According to data released by the Ministry of Labour and Employment in 2013, 13.5% of those in the age group 1529 are unemployed, the third highest rate in north Indian states. While this is only slightly higher than the 13.3% national average, easy availability of narcotics in Punjab make the unemployed more susceptible to drug use and addiction.

Worldwide, road traffic injuries are the second most common cause of death for persons between 5 and 29 years of age; 90% per cent of those deaths occur in low- to middle-income countries. The World Health Organization estimates that 1.2 million people die annually from traffic-related injuries and predicts that, by 2030, traffic accidents will be the fifth leading cause of death (World Drug Report, 2013).

Punjab shares a 553-km border with Pakistan, which is used as an entry point to smuggle narcotics into India. According to data tabulated in the Rajya Sabha, in 2013, a total of 390 kg of smack/heroin was seized in various states along the Indo-Pak border by the Border Security Force (BSF). Almost 84% of these seizures were made in the districts of Punjab bordering Pakistan. Furthermore, Punjab accounted for half of all seizures in India, according to a 2013 Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) report. In 2014 Lok Sabha produced data in which Mizoram was on the top list with the seizures of 48209 tons drugs in which different drugs were involved like Amphetamine, Cannabis plant, Cocaine, Ephedrine, Ganja, Hashish, Heroin, Acetic Anhydride, Methamphetamine, Morphine and lysergic acid diethylamide (LSD).

India is a sandwich between two international drug trafficking zones. This is situated on the border area of India. most of the border States are affected due to the drug trafficking zone but the Mizoram, Punjab, Manipur, are some state which is most vulnerable to the drug abuse and drug trafficking also just due to their prone international borders.

II. Conclusion

Drug trafficking is very huge problem to the society. It affects the youth of the society directly or indirectly. Trafficking of drug affects the economic conditions of the state and nation as well. This is the main source of financial support to the other organized crime which is increased in the border area. More studies on trafficking are required to be done in the India and particular state which is near to border area. Research scholar need to find out the main reason behind it and find out the solution for the better situation and better development of the nation. Most of the studies done in the north reason of the India but the other state on the northeast have to need a good research to find out the reason as well as solution for the drug trafficking issues.

III. Discussion

This research have shown the increasing situation of the drug trafficking in the Punjab area and show the common substance which is mostly trafficked and how its effect the societies. These are lots of factors which are responsible for increasing rate of the trafficking in this area. There is need to aware the youth and need to give the proper counseling to the people who are involved in drug trafficking as well as drug abuse. Government need to run social awareness programme by government and non-government organizations to stop the substance used and involvement in drug trafficking. Most of the young people are addicted one or more drugs. It is very harmful to the any country. So every government need to take some preventive measures to stop and combat the drug trafficking situation and social awareness is very important for the people and nearby countries need to make a common laws to prevent drug trafficking issues.

Geographical location of Punjab is situated in the very near to golden crescent and it is the sandwich between two drug zone and become the transit point. Across India is affected by drug trafficking due to these two zones but Punjab is most affected state in trafficking and abuse as well as. This paper seeks to address the problem of the trafficking in India and specially Punjab. This paper including the reasons of the drug trafficking and find out the current scenario of drug trafficking in Punjab and also focused on the effect of drug trafficking and also focus on the consequences of drug abuse because drug abuse is most important reason of the trafficking. First of all we need to understand the drug trafficking. Most of the agencies give the definition of the trafficking but most of the definitions are similar. According to the UNODC “drug trafficking means a global illicit trade which involves the cultivation, manufacture, distribution and sale of any substances which are subjected to prohibition laws.” The drug trafficking Act 1994 in UK says the producing or supplying a controlled drug, transport or storing a controlled drug is defined as drug trafficking.

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