

Drug Trafficking

[Name of Writer]

[Name of Institution]

Drug Trafficking

Introduction

Drugs are substances that affect the human body functions and are used specifically to produce a change of consciousness and perception. With respect to drugs, an issues inviting global attention has been illegal trade of drugs, often referred as drug trafficking. In this paper, we will discuss the repercussions of drug trafficking and highlights the trends of the same in United States.

Discussion

Drug trafficking refers to the cultivation, manufacture and distribution of drugs and related substance that are termed illegal and prohibited by law. The phenomenon of drug trafficking is a distinctive sign of the severe structural crisis of society (including social levels, economic, political and cultural). It relates to extreme concentration of wealth in the countryside and the city, lack of agrarian reform, crisis of values ideological, moral and ethical issues, lack of opportunities (economic, health, education, and communication), breakdown of the rule to society and an inordinate desire for wealth resulting in a state of social breakdown and protruding a worrying trend of corruption (Fortson, 2002). The paper discusses the repercussion of drug trafficking and highlights the trends in United States.

Health Issues

Drug toxins damage the body and permanently alter a person's personality. Lung cancer, liver failure, and psychoses are some of the consequences of drug misuse while long-term drug abuse can cause health problems or death. This addiction is also associated with negative social consequences of those addicts and persons affected from the environment.

Possible consequences include neglecting their own families, exclusion from the social environment, unemployment or involvement in drug related crime.

A look at Stats:

Statistics reveal that about 230 million people i.e. 5% of the global population consume any illegal drugs. Globally, consumption appears to have stabilized in the first world countries but the problem has been increasing in the developing countries. Drug trade is almost always closely linked to corruption and money laundering. Illegal drug market in the US is the most profitable market as compared to the other drug markets in the world. Around 19 million, US citizens use the drug illegally once in a month, according to one report of congress the estimated spending on this drug use is around \$70 billion per annum (Moore, 1995). It is one of the prime businesses for criminals mainly because of high profit margins and increasing consumption globally. This huge profit motivates the illicit to carry on the trade, these business are also supported by foreign banks mainly because of huge inflow of cash into their accounts.

Illegal use of Drugs

Drug trafficking is an illegal activity that has wide affects among other crimes: human trafficking, arms trafficking, money laundering, and corruption. This means that a country with a high drug activity will have a great weakness in the security of its people and its institutions (Fortson, 2002). Drug trafficking has been a driven by ever increasing addiction of population on drugs. This drug addiction passes through three stages; usage, abuse and eventually dependency.

- Usage refers to a first contact of a person with drug; it is often casual and voluntary. For example, the invitation to try a cigarette of marijuana.

- Abuse refers to the use of the drug repeatedly. To achieve the same effect obtained first few times, one begin to increase the quantity and / or frequency of intake.
- Dependency is a stage whereby an individual makes permanent and constant use of the drug.

Conclusion

The increased use of drug is well evident in United States and has been a subject of attention by the concerned drug control authorities. The ever increasing demand of prohibited drugs in the black market is a big threat to the health and wellbeing of the society. To overcome the problem, a comprehensive preventive strategy should be set whereby various education programs can assist in guiding people about the effects of drug use and how to evade it. The demand for drugs cannot be eliminated, but efforts should be gathered to minimize it. The issue must be brought under the legal umbrella and strict action must be taken to evade drug abuse.

References

Fortson, R. (2002). "*Misuse of drugs and drug trafficking offences*". Edition: 4. Sweet & Maxwell, pp. 26-248

Moore, S. (1995). "Adolescent Black Males' Drug Trafficking and Addiction: Theoretical Perspectives", *Journal of Black Studies*, Vol. 26. pp. 99-115