

Surveying the Reasons of Smuggling Narcotics in Bam County and its Prevention

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Abstract

The current study aims to survey the reasons of narcotics smuggling in Bam county and how to prevent from this phenomenon. Being in the middle of narcotics smuggling international transit path, Bam has undoubtedly suffered the most harms. Presupposing the hypothesis to the effect that Bam County is located on narcotics smuggling international transit path, researchers are willing to specify what the reasons are why this criminal phenomenon gains momentum every day to harm the human society and what resolutions can be adopted to fight against it. The theoretical framework of the research includes Garry Becker's economic, Bentham's criminal policy principle, crime opportunity and Merton's pressure theories. The researchers want to diagnose drug smuggling from these theories point of view. The research method implemented here in this research is applied surveying. The statistical population consists of all the criminals sentenced to narcotics smuggling related crimes within 1392 and 1393 Hijri. The sampling method benefited was random sampling and sample volume was 150 individuals. The data was analyzed in descriptive and deductive levels. In descriptive statistics section, frequency distribution tables and in deductive statistics, Pearson correlational coefficient and Chi square test were used. Finding of the research confirm research hypotheses i.e. there is a significant relationship between poverty, unemployment and criminals' propagation seeking with narcotics smuggling. There is also a relationship between social environment and geographical environment with the above mentioned phenomenon.

Key words: narcotics, poverty, unemployment, prevention, propagation seeking

Introduction

Narcotics smuggling is one of the most important challenges of today's societies which is more or less ubiquitous in all the countries. Obviation of this problem seems an unreachable ideal to penal justice agents and criminologists. The mentioned phenomenon, in addition to heavy economic drawbacks, threatens societies' mental health as well (Raesdana, 2002:65). Unfortunately, Bam County has not been able to deal with this disaster successfully. We are reaching for a global crisis in narcotics smuggling which can transform the world into a threatening ground. This issue is an economical illness and

endangering human societies' health and hygiene which leads to serious threats to ethics in the society and spreads corruption (Shakarami, 1989:87). This ethical corruption leads to weaker families and citizens' insecurity and concern and as a result decreased human safety. Research show that among all social indelicacies, smuggling narcotics has had the most contribution to crimes happening in Bam County and it is one of the issues of the city to be tackled at the moment. Thus, delinquency is among corruptions that are strongly influenced by time and place characteristics, cultural grounds, social factors and economic structure. The concern of discipline and security has triggered attention

toward fighting delinquency in all societies (HaghPanah, 1998:54).

There is no doubt that the phenomenon of smuggling narcotics leads to destruction of humane society directly and indirectly and instant and hypothetical victims are the results of it in the societies. Since the Islamic republic has geographical borders with Pakistan and Afghanistan which are the pioneers of planting opium poppy in the world, a lot of harms are made in it. Bam County is one of the instant victims of this phenomenon which has come to a lot of spiritual and material harms. The economic condition of Bam County, unemployment and poverty has affected the youth who are the source of vivacity, brilliance and innovation and spreads the virus of addiction among them and makes them prone to cultural invasion. Addiction leads to peoples' loss of identity and indifference toward their own and society's destiny and as a result, the society accepts alien dominance easily (Saaki, 2001:313). Thus, regions social condition and structure (unsettled families, poverty, religiousness level, socializing with bad friends and education) is formed in a way that shows victims have entered this realm. Since the Islamic republic has geographical borders with Pakistan and Afghanistan, the biggest producers of poppy and the fact that a lot of local and international powers stealthily and overtly smuggle narcotics by any means, there are many problems caused to human society (Kardooni, 1999: 26). Therefore, Bam County, being located in the transit of narcotics, witnesses direct and indirect proliferation of criminals and victims from this phenomenon and its consequences that affect civil society's safety and life. There is an urgent and obvious need to do research on this for it is clear that correctly tackling any issue requires sufficient knowledge and view of it and setting the grounds for such cognition is delegated to researchers of various fields. The significance of doing this research is that we need to see what

reasons contribute to smuggling narcotics in the mentioned County. Identifying the influencing factors helps to have an ideal society without dangerous and cruel criminals who threaten public life and safety. Multiplied crime rates, criminal population growth and narcotics smuggling crime repetition from one side, and threatening society through generating insecurity from the other, make it essential to present resolutions to prevent this crime. Deploying preventive policies is of special significance.

Research hypotheses:

1. It seems that there is a significant relationship between smuggling narcotics in Bam County and the geographical environment.
2. It seems that there is a relationship between smuggling narcotics in Bam County and the social environment.
3. It seems that there is a logical relationship between smuggling narcotics in Bam County and the poverty and unemployment.
4. It seems that there is a significant relationship between smuggling narcotics in Bam County and criminals becoming richer.

Research literature

1. Bentham and Beccaria's rational choice theory

Supporters of originality of profit (Utilitarianism), who look at every affair from the beneficiary point of view, have revised crimes in terms of the economic perspective. The first study about crime economics traces back to 1764 by Beccaria (Sadegh et al, 2004, 2).

According to Bentham's principle of criminal rationalism, a criminal decides to commit a crime or not based on an equation with the profit from crime on one side and the probable

loss from committing the crime on the other. Some of the countries criminologists claim that Bentham and Beccaria's analysis is only theoretical and they didn't use scientific methods or experimental data to prove their claim (NajafiAbrandabadi, 1999: 38). Thus, criminals prone to smuggling narcotics measure their benefits and losses from committing such crimes before they happen in the light of Bentham and Beccaria's criminal rational choice. If the benefits from this crime are more than its losses such as financial fines and short term jails, the criminal commits the crime undoubtedly.

2. Garry Becker's economic theory

Becker addressed crime economics firstly in a famous article entitled "economics of crime and punishment". His main model is based on the hypothesis that if the expected desire of a person from a criminal act is more than what they gain from putting time and effort on other activities, they will commit the crime (Sadeghi et al, 2004:2).

In other words, the innovator of economic explanation of the crime introduces the criminal act as an economic one. He is of the belief that criminals are not patients, but they are logical and thoughtful creatures like other individuals who choose and decide in accordance with the benefits they get from their criminal acts. So, a criminal is considered a businessman who seeks profit. Before implementing the plan, he does some calculations and makes the decision in the next stage (NajafiAbrandabadi, 1998:50). Becker states that the frequency of crimes by a person is influenced by probability of condemnation, punishment and other variables such as accessible income from legal and illegal activities (SoltaniTiran, 1999:140). A person commits a crime just in case the benefits from the crime exceed the expected legal benefits after profit-loss analysis (Shakibayi, 2001:48).

3. Merton's Pressure theory

Robert Merton is of the belief that humans are not devious in nature, but they are drawn to crimes by being pressurized, pressure from wishes from one side and not reaching them from legal ways from the other. This is due to the social structure being formed in a way that economic injustice enters crime proliferating phases. Robert Merton defines pressure as the tension created by the gap between legal ambitions and the tools for reaching them (NAjafiAbrandabadi, 2012: 63).

After 3 decades, Robert Merton, inspired by Dorkims' thoughts, introduced the theory of goals and tools. This theory is summarized into features. From one side there are defined intentions and goals in the society (legal purposes) and from the other, the society provides legal tools for achieving those goals. There will be a normative gap when there is practically no balance between the advised purposes and the tools available for individuals. In this case, there will be tensions. Merton mentions some examples for more clarification. In the US, one of the lawful goals is in scale of money values. Individuals are invited to reach this goal by trying hard. This gap between the tools and goal triggers different reactions in people. Therefore, adaptation and equalizing of why smuggling narcotics happens is based on this purport. Merton believes that the pressure from ambitions and wishes and not reaching them legally entices criminals to commit crimes. It seems that bearing in mind the fact that individuals try to reach their legal goals through legal ways, but in reality economic mechanisms have deprived them from the necessities, they have to show reactions in return. As a result, since the financial outcome of narcotics is greatly more than other things, criminals tend to be drawn to it more and people who deliberately or unwillingly enter this cycle and experience gratuitous money will not stop smuggling easily.

Crime opportunity theory

One of the theories that have emerged through the past decades is Crime opportunity theory. The dominant logic of this theory is that the existence of criminal and victim does not mean that there has been a crime and there needs to be the opportunity to commit the crime.

Pess claims that increased crime opportunity increases the probability of crimes happening and vice versa; decrease in crime opportunity decreases the probability of crimes as well. The principles of this theory were initially gathered and set by Cohen et al. and then completed by Felson and Clark (Salimi, 2001, 337).

Felson and Clark named several principles as the basics of opportunity theory. A: The fact that opportunity plays a role in crimes that happen is one of them. They believe that crime opportunity is not limited to specific cases and in fact, it contributes to all crimes. For instance, the rate of smuggling narcotics and corruption is also in relation with opportunities. For example, drug dealers seek for apartments in blocks which don't have a manager or those who intend to sell and transit drugs to other cities look for calm and peaceful atmospheres to conceal their illegal activity from penal justice agents. B: Crime opportunities are very special. C: Crime opportunities have time and place asymmetry. D: A committed crime sets the grounds for other crimes i.e. the criminal is easily and unwillingly drawn to other crimes along the opportunities that are provided by the first crime. The best example about narcotics smugglers is purging the revenues from drugs or the case of drug dealers who want to import narcotics through political borders to other cities in Iran. They can commit multiple other crimes such as gunning, assault and battery, hurting, murder of security agents and etc.

Research background

We can mention the article by Raees Dana (2002) who took an economic view on smuggling and narcotics. In his research entitled "The market of narcotics in Iran" he probed the matter of whether there is a relationship between unemployment and smuggling narcotics. The results revealed that there is a positive relationship between poverty and unemployment and increased number of drug dealers especially in eastern borders of Iran.

Jafarzadeh and Hassani (1999) carried out a research entitled "Factors of tendency to smuggling in Avartin area of Kahnouj County". Geographical and economic features of the area which contribute to smuggling goods such as lack of industrial centers, seasonal agriculture, closeness to bordered provinces and being located in the smuggling transit way, economic poverty and unemployment are mentioned in the article as the most important factors.

In a research by Boroumand (2003) with the title of "a glimpse at price and income of narcotics and their criminal organization over the globe", the status of retail, wholesale, income and experts of narcotics is surveyed. The article is only analytical and no economic statistics concerning smuggling narcotics or conclusions are brought in the end.

Moradi (2003) carried out a thesis entitled "Study and surveying vulnerability of Javeh-Pakistan path in terms of smuggling narcotics. The results indicated that police stations are incorrectly positioned in the area due to geographical limitations and inconsideration of this issue and specific geomorphical features such as canyons and broad plains which make monitoring difficult and therefore the area is vulnerable smuggling narcotics.

Payandeh (2005) did a thesis entitled "the most effective approaches to oppose smuggling

narcotics in Yazd province Command center. The results show that using tactical war ploys are the most important methods to oppose smuggling which are themselves reliant on recognizing the geographical situation and features on the surface of the ground and the dominant circumstances. As a result, studying these factors is of prior significance.

Research method

The research method in this research is applied science and it's a descriptive survey. This research is descriptive in terms of purpose and in terms of results it is applied. Accordingly, surveying method can be of benefit. Validity of the questionnaire is the content type i.e. data collecting tools include all content and dimensions of the subject variable and has logic and content validity. Cronbach's alpha was used for calculation of reliability which is more accurate and stronger. Data analysis was done in descriptive and deductive levels. Statistical measures such as mean frequency percentages were used for descriptive analysis and in the deductive level proportionate with data measurement level and hypotheses of statistical tests, X^2 and Pearson tests were used. The analytical too was a computer empowered by computer software SPSS for Windows, version 13.5.

Research findings

Descriptive statistics

The current research, which included a sample of 150 individuals, reveals that 135 of them (90%) were male and 15 (10%) were female. 45 individuals (30%) were single and 105 (70%) were married. In terms of being employed or not, 120 individuals (80%) were reported to be unemployed and only 30 of them (26%) had jobs. 24% of the respondents were illiterate, while 50% had just a junior high school certificate and 26% had a diploma.

Deductive statistics

This section initially identifies the main variables of the research and analyzes them in order to show which ones of independent variables have a significant relationship with those dependent.

Hypothesis one

It seems that there is a significant relationship between smuggling narcotics in Bam County and the geographical environment which is indicated by area's extreme drought, broad plain of Zahedan, negligence of agriculture, lack of communication routes, being located in the international transit of narcotics in the area and the dependent variable of smuggling narcotics. This hypothesis was surveyed and the results are as follows:

Test of geographical features influencing smuggling narcotics in Bam County

Component	Frequency of received data					Freedom degree	significance
	Too high	High	moderate	low	Too low		
Drought	83	30	20	10	7	4/42	0/000
Vast Loot plains	80	33	22	10	5	3/16	0/000
Negligence of agriculture	87	30	18	12	3	3/98	0/000
Lack of communication ways	90	32	18	10	0	2/90	0/000
being located in the international transit of narcotics	90	34	12	10	4	3/51	0/000

According to the above table, all the indicators related to geographical environment are significant and therefore influence the variable of smuggling narcotics. As a result, it can be concluded that extreme drought in the area (with the average of 4.42), vast loot plains (with the average of 3.16), Negligence of agriculture (with the average of 3.98), Lack of communication ways (with the average of 2.90) and being located in the international transit of narcotics (with the average of 3.51) have influenced increased smuggling narcotics in Bam County.

Hypothesis 2

It seems that there is a relationship between smuggling narcotics in Bam County and the social environment. The independent variable in this hypothesis is the social environment with the indexes: Family disputes, bad friends, criminal record in the family, divorce, family disorganization, lack of regard for marriage and the dependent variable which is smuggling narcotics. The results are shown in the table below. Test of social environment components influencing smuggling narcotics in Bam County

Component	Frequency of received data					Freedom degree	significance
	Too high	High	mode rate	lo w	Too low		
Family disputes	79	32	22	9	8	4/23	0/000
bad friends	80	30	21	11	5	3/26	0/000
criminal record in the family	88	29	17	13	3	3/73	0/000
divorce	92	30	16	10	2	3/13	0/000
lack of regard for marriage	90	33	13	10	4	2/71	0/000

According to the above table, all the indicators related to social environment in Ba County are significant and therefore influence the phenomenon of smuggling narcotics. Consequently, it can be included that family disputes (with the average of 4.23), bad friends (with the average of 3.26), criminal record in the family (with the average of 3.73), divorce and family disorganization (with the average of 3.13) and lack of regard for marriage (with the average of 2.71) contribute to the spread of smuggling narcotics.

Hypothesis 3

It seems that there is a logical relationship between smuggling narcotics in Bam County and the poverty and unemployment. The independent variable in this hypothesis is poverty and unemployment with the components of unemployment, lack of income, lack of access to educational facilities, improper job, authority’s negligence on criminals’ zone and the dependent variable which is smuggling narcotics. The following table illustrates the concluded results.

Test of poverty and unemployment components influencing smuggling narcotics in Bam County

Component	Frequency of received data					Freedom degree	significance
	Too high	High	mode rate	low	Too low		
Unemployment	95	20	18	10	7	4/42	0/000
Lack of income	90	31	15	9	5	3/98	0/000
lack of access to educational facilities	85	29	17	13	6	3/51	0/000
improper job	90	32	14	12	2	2/90	0/000
authority’s negligence on criminals’ zone	86	33	12	10	9	3/16	0/000

According to the table above, all the components related to poverty and unemployment in Bam County are significant and therefore affect the phenomenon of smuggling narcotics. It can be included that unemployment (with average of 4.42), lack of income (with average of 3.98), lack of access to educational facilities (with average of 3.51), improper job (with average of 2.90) and authority’s negligence on criminals’ zone (with average of 3.16) all contribute to high rates of smuggled narcotics in Bam County.

Hypothesis 4

It seems that there is a significant relationship between smuggling narcotics in Bam County and criminals becoming richer. The independent variable in this hypothesis is criminals’ propagation seeking with components of extensive income of smuggling narcotics, vast costumers of narcotics, less work decrease in smuggling narcotics and the vast demand for narcotics and the dependent variable which is smuggling narcotics. The succeeding table shows the results from measurement of this hypothesis.

Test of criminals' propagation seeking components influencing smuggling narcotics in Bam County

Component	Frequency of received data					Freedom degree	significance
	Too high	High	mode rate	low	Too low		
extensive income of smuggling narcotics	100	20	15	10	5	3/54	0/000
vast costumers of narcotics	89	25	20	11	5	3/90	0/000
less work decrease in smuggling narcotics	88	26	17	13	6	3/31	0/000
vast demand for narcotics	90	30	14	12	4	4/90	0/000

According to the table above, all the components related to criminals' propagation seeking in Bam County are significant and therefor affect the phenomenon of smuggling narcotics. It can be included that extensive income of smuggling narcotics (with the average of 3.54), vast costumers of narcotics (with the average of 3.90), less work decrease in smuggling narcotics (with the average of 3.31) and the vast demand for narcotics (with the average of 4.90) contribute to the phenomenon of smuggling narcotics.

Discussion

It is obvious that tackling crime cannot only be realized by inefficient compulsory tools, but in fact decreasing crimes requires using the modern criminology technology which emphasizes subjective and environmental factors. Results and findings of the present research showed that crime cannot be considered only as a result of subjective factors, but it is a consequence of several factors. This research gives results similar to most national studies which are mentioned in this study in terms of positive significant relationship between unemployment rate, poverty, social environment, geographical

environment, Criminal's propagation seeking quality and the rate of smuggling narcotics. In fact, the tentative findings stress the theoretical basis used in this research.

In comparison with local studies, it can be stated that results of the present study are similar to those of RaeesDana's (2002). However, the feature of this research is making use of a stronger theoretical model i.e. a model that that surveys the relationship between poverty and unemployment with smuggling narcotics in Bam County. Using X test, the posed hypothesis was confirmed. It means that poverty and unemployment and smuggling narcotics are not independent from each other and are related.

On the other hand, this research concluded that the fact that Bam County is geographically close to Afghanistan, which is pioneer in planting poppy, individuals are drawn to smuggling. Results by Moradi (2003), Jafarzadeh et al. (1999) are in line with those of this research.

Research findings concerning smugglers propagation seeking indicated that there is a significant relationship between smuggling narcotics and this variable. Becker believed that a

criminal is considered a businessman who expects profit. They do some calculations before implementing their ploy and make the decision afterwards. In case benefits are more than the loss from committing the crime, they will commit the crime. The above point is in line with the research by Boroumand (2003).

The last result which is drawn from this research is related to the role of social environment in smuggling narcotics. Statistical results show that criminal who grow up in nice neighborhoods and vicinities tend to commit or repeat crimes less and this conclusion was also drawn by Payandeh (2005).

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