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# The Impact of Drug Trafficking on Citizens' Social Security from a Public Policy Perspective

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## Abstract:

**Objective:** This study was conducted to investigate the impact of drug trafficking on the social security of citizens from the perspective of public policy.

**Method:** The method of this research is applied in terms of purpose of research. In terms of method, it is a qualitative research of Delphi research.

**Results:** The findings show that since Iran is the world's largest producer of narcotics in the neighborhood, drug trafficking has had a direct impact on endangering the social security of its citizens.

**Conclusion:** According to the results obtained, planning and policies for combating narcotics in the society, the role of trafficking can be considered for social security and according to these effects and security vulnerabilities, the type of policies should be selected.

**Keywords:** Social Security, Drug Trafficking, Public Policy, Delphi

## Introduction:

The most important element for the progress, development, and evolution of a society as well as the flourishing of talents is security and ensuring peace in society. And social development, creativity and valuable activity will not be possible without security. Social insecurity is the situation in which important groups in a society feel that their identity is endangered by certain factors, and are trying to defend themselves. Because the desired social security is the confidence of the society in the face of normal changes and deliberate movements focused on its health and identity. Factors that reduce and affect the attachment and mental cohesion of society are factors that threaten social security (Walt, 1991). Security is the first right of citizenship, and its provision is the first priority of governments towards citizens and the most fundamental concept in social and civil life. Security has different dimensions, the most important one is social security. It generally means the ability of society to protect its fundamental values against real and potential events and threats and provides the necessary space and tools to express and plan the views of various social groups (Weiss, 2015). Today, security from various social aspects is the most basic and key issue of human societies and this security can be discussed in the social, judicial and even nutritional areas of society and the family. Social security has a mental and objective dimension. In an objective dimension, social security means no threat to acquired values and in the mental dimension it contains having no fear that those values will be attacked (O'Neill, 2002).

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Meanwhile, drug trafficking and distribution in society is one of the important factors in creating national and social insecurity. Drug trafficking of psychotropic substances as one of the critical factors, from a political, social, cultural, economic, and security point of view, imposes many costs on the system of the Islamic Republic of Iran (Jazini, 2015). Drug trafficking and addiction precede social conditions and systems. This phenomenon is also a result of cultural, social, political and economic structures in the international system. The phenomenon of drug trafficking is so complex that the United Nations considers it as an organized crime. The organization also issues conventions and various protocols to deal with it. It also places it alongside three other crises (nuclear, demographic, and environmental) that threaten humanity in the present century. In Iran, 20% of homicides, 55% of divorces and spousal abuse, and 60% of the country's prison population are drug-related. From 80% of narcotics produced in Afghanistan, 50% of them enter our country for transit or consumption. According to the statistics provided, 5,000 tons of narcotics are smuggled into the country annually from the eastern borders of Iran (Samir, 2017). The growing rate of 19% of drug demand and the number of consumers has increased from 208 million people with a prevalence rate of 4.9% in 2006 to 247 million people with a prevalence rate of 5.2% in 2015. Expansion of consumption and change of drug consumption pattern in 2017 had a growth of 32% compared to 2009. In Iran, based on attitude data from all people over 15 years old in 28 provinces of Iran in 2000, 89.3% of people have stated that addiction, above average, is a serious problem for society (Mahdavian, 2018). In public policy literature, the public nature of an issue is considered as a basic condition for its inclusion in the agenda of policy makers. Certainly, drug trafficking and its adverse consequences are considered as a public problem for the country due to its impact on society. Therefore, the type and model of policy that the government chooses to fight drug trafficking should be commensurate with the problems that exist at the community level. Because public policy means the knowledge of the government in practice (Malek Mohammadi, 2015). Sometimes the different approaches and policies of Anti-narcotics indicate that the closer we get to the present time, the more intense the process of paying attention to the use of drugs instead of drug itself. Pre-revolutionary approaches, policies and laws were mainly drug-oriented and paid less attention to the issue of the consumer. Of course, this view has changed over time and the issue of the consumer has also entered into anti-narcotics policies during the Pahlavi regime. But anti-narcotics policies after the Islamic Revolution are divided into four periods. The first period includes the years after the revolution to the construction period, the second period is the construction period, the third period is the reform period, and the fourth period is the current period. In order to better understand the general policies of anti-narcotics after the revolution, it is necessary to point out how the problem of narcotics was formed and the attitude of the officials towards anti-narcotics in Iran after the revolution. In 1980, a bill was approved to increase the punishment of perpetrators of drug crimes, security and treatment measures for the treatment and employment of addicts. Thus, all drug-related laws were repealed, with the exception of Resolution 1969 (intensification of punishment for traffickers and harsh treatment of addicts). The new laws provided for more severe punishments for drug offenders, and the investigation of these crimes was entrusted to the Revolutionary and Judicial Courts. In 1988, Anti-narcotics law replaced the 1980 resolution. In this law, again stricter views emerged on anti-narcotics. The amendment law was implemented in 1998. The role and position of Anti-narcotics were considered in this law. After that, other laws were formulated, the most important of which was the law (general policies of the system) in the field of narcotics, which was approved by the Expediency Council in 2005 and announced by the Supreme Leader. After the end of the war, the late Supreme

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Leader of the Revolution emphasized that after the war, the first issue of the country is the fight against drug trafficking and addiction. In fact, this was the reason why this issue was examined in the Expediency Council in 1988 and the law of this "problem" was formulated and approved by the council. After that, the Anti-Narcotics Headquarters, consisting of several ministries and government agencies, was formed and tasked with resolving the drug problem as quickly as possible. Thus, the Anti-Narcotics Headquarters developed special policies in this regard. Choosing this policy depends on the social structure, political, economic and cultural system of a society. It seems that this policy has not been effective in reducing drug use and prevention in Iran and the consequences of drug trafficking have increased day by day. Consequences of drug trafficking for countries can be divided into two categories: micro and macro consequences. Macro consequences can be called the role it plays in the economic, political, cultural, national and even demographic problems of a country. On a smaller scale, some problems are mentioned such as: drug addiction, money laundering, economic corruption, ethnic strife and identity crises, theft, the involvement of the younger generation in consumption, the formation of organized groups for distribution, and the subsequent growth of violence and organized crime, increase, Statistics of the community mentioned the increase of domestic violence, the use of children and women in drug trafficking, divorces due to addiction and the weakening of the family institution, and the increase of psychological problems. Also, considering that women are now using drugs like men, creating problems for women such as prostitution is one of the new consequences of drug trafficking in the country. All of these problems lead to the erosion of cultural capital and the weakening of the rule of law and the spread of insecurity in society. Erosion of social capital causes the disintegration of ties and social cohesion and makes development impossible. Fighting this phenomenon requires recognizing all its dimensions (economic, social, etc.) (Kazemi, 2010). Anti-narcotics policy-making will be successful if designed and implemented with a realistic understanding of the issue. The consequences of drug trafficking in the country must be examined in order to achieve this accurate knowledge. The present study tries to collect the effects of drug trafficking on the social security of the country with the help of law enforcement experts. And with the clarification of these effects, provide appropriate solutions to prevent the loss of material and human resources.

**Research Methodology:**

This research is an applied research in terms of purpose and from the perspective of the implementation method is one of the descriptive projects because it expressed the conditions and described the current situation by a qualitative Delphi method. The main goal of the Delphi method is to reach the most reliable consensus of a group of experts' opinions through a series of centralized questionnaires with controlled feedback. By gaining the consensus of a group of experts through this process, researchers can identify and prioritize issues and develop a framework for identifying them. The Delphi technique is a structured process for gathering information during successive rounds and ultimately group consensus. The number of Delphi specialists in this study is 20. In this research, the content validity method has been used to determine and confirm the validity of the questionnaire. Thus, after preparing the initial questionnaire according to previous articles, the validity of the questionnaire by several experts and professors of guidance and counseling that knowledge and experience in the subject, willingness, sufficient time for participation and effective skills were examined and amendments were made to the questionnaire. Finally, its validity was confirmed. A pre-test was performed to determine the reliability of the questionnaire. The reliability coefficient

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(Cronbach's alpha) was calculated which resulted in a value of 0.877 for the questionnaire, which indicates the internal consistency of the questionnaire. It is also used to check the consensus in Delphi rounds to terminate it in the Kendall coordination coefficient. This coefficient can be easily calculated by SPSS software. The Delphi questionnaire uses the Likert scale, which includes options (strongly disagree: 1), (disagree: 2), (abstain: 3), (agree: 4) and (strongly agree: 5); in each round indicators that have scored less than 3 can be removed and screened.

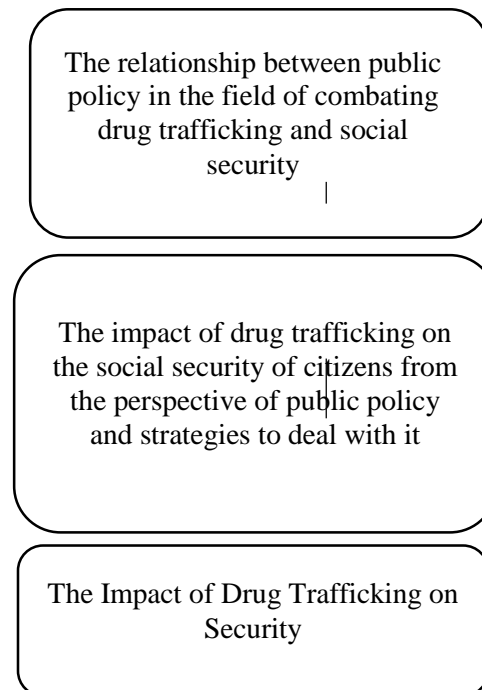


Figure 1: Components of the research conceptual model

### Research Findings:

#### Delphi First Round Results

In the first step, the effective indicators of drug trafficking on the social security of citizens were extracted from the perspective of public policy, which was given to 20 experts in the form of a questionnaire to give points to each index based on a 5 Likert scale. The reliability of the questionnaire in the first stage is equal to 0.875 and is acceptable because it is higher than 0.7. The results of the first round of Delphi are given in Table 1.

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Table 1: Results of the first round of Delphi

Topic	Index	Lowest score	Highest Score	Mean	SD	
1	The relationship between public policy in the field of combating drug trafficking and social security	Appropriate anti-narcotics policies reduce demand, production and consumption and thus improve social security.	2	5	3.9	1.021
2		In order to have a favorable anti-narcotics policy, there must be a logical relationship between the goals and the possibilities to achieve them.	2	5	3.45	0.826
3		Insufficient control and supervision over the work of pharmacies leads to easy access to drugs, especially industrial ones.	1	5	3.15	1.040
4		Paying attention to preventive policies and drug-based treatment will improve the social security environment.	1	5	3.6	1.095
5		A coordinated relationship between law enforcement and the judiciary and the speeding up of related judicial cases can build public trust.	2	5	3.7	1.031
6		A comprehensive border control policy can prevent drug trafficking and thus ensure social security in the country.	2	5	3.65	1.182
8		Close communication between policymakers, educational institutions and non-governmental organizations on anti-narcotics can lead to social security.	2	5	3.75	1.020
9	The role of drug trafficking on social security	Drug trafficking increases cultural problems such as ethnic conflicts and identity crises.	2	5	3.3	0.979
10		Drug trafficking leads to class distance (overnight).	1	4	3.05	0.887
11		Drug trafficking leads to problems for women such as prostitution, which is one of the new consequences of drug trafficking in the country.	2	5	3.55	0.887
12		Drug trafficking leads to money laundering and economic corruption	1	5	3.15	1.089
13		Drug trafficking leads to an increase in the number of consumers in the community	3	5	4.15	0.671
14		Increasing demographic problems	1	5	3.5	1.100
15		Drug trafficking leads to an increase in crime, violence and organized crime at the community level.	2	5	3.8	1.105
16		Drug trafficking leads to an increase in disorders in the family institution, including disorders, increase in domestic violence, use of children and women in drug dealing, divorces due to addiction and weakening of the family institution, increase in psychological problems.	1	5	3.6	0.995

**Delphi Second Round Results**

In the second round of Delphi, first the indicators that have an average of less than 3 in the first stage of Delphi are deleted. The results showed that all indicators have an average higher than 3, so none of them were deleted. In the second round of Delphi, the same questionnaire of the first round was again given to the experts to give points to each index as in the first round. Also in this round, the average score of the first Delphi round was set so that people can make decisions based on the total average. During this period, many experts confirmed their views

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in the first stage. The results of the second round Delphi are given in Table 2. The reliability and coordination coefficient of Kendall in the second round are equal to 0.864 and 0.118, respectively.

Table 2: Results of the second round of Delphi

	Topic	Index	Lowest score	Highest Score	Mean	SD
1	The relationship between	Appropriate anti-narcotics policies reduce demand, production and consumption and thus improve social security.	2	5	4.1	0.912
2	public policy in the field of combating drug	In order to have a favorable anti-narcotics policy, there must be a logical relationship between the goals and the possibilities to achieve them.	2	5	3.45	0.826
3	trafficking and social security	Insufficient control and supervision over the work of pharmacies leads to easy access to drugs, especially industrial ones.	1	5	3.15	1.040
4		Paying attention to preventive policies and drug-based treatment will improve the social security environment.	2	5	3.65	0.988
5		A coordinated relationship between law enforcement and the judiciary and the speeding up of related judicial cases can build public trust.	2	5	3.75	0.967
6		A comprehensive border control policy can prevent drug trafficking and thus ensure social security in the country.	2	5	3.7	1.129
7		Close communication between policymakers, educational institutions and non-governmental organizations on anti-narcotics can lead to social security.	2	5	4	0.858
8	The role of drug	Drug trafficking increases cultural problems such as ethnic conflicts and identity crises.	2	5	3.3	0.979
9	trafficking on social	Drug trafficking leads to class distance (overnight).	1	4	3.05	0.887
10	security	Drug trafficking leads to problems for women such as prostitution, which is one of the new consequences of drug trafficking in the country.	2	5	3.65	0.813
11		Drug trafficking leads to money laundering and economic corruption	1	5	3.15	1.089
12		Drug trafficking leads to an increase in the number of consumers in the community	3	5	4.15	0.671
13		Increasing demographic problems	2	5	3.6	0.940
14		Drug trafficking leads to an increase in crime, violence and organized crime at the community level.	2	5	3.8	1.105
15		Drug trafficking leads to an increase in disorders in the family institution, including disorders, increase in domestic violence, use of children and women in drug dealing, divorces due to addiction and weakening of the family institution, increase in psychological problems.	1	5	3.6	0.995

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Delphi Third Round Results

In the third Delphi, in the same way as the second stage questionnaire, they were given to the experts again and gave the same score to each index as in the first stage. Also in this round, the average score of the second Delphi was set so that people can make decisions based on the total average. In this round, most experts approved the same comments of the second stage and refused to submit a new comment. The results of the third Delphi round are given in Table 3. In the third round of Delphi, the stability and coordination coefficient of Kendall are equal to 0.844 and 0.124, respectively. The results of the three cycles of the Delphi method in the research show that due to the following reasons, there is a consensus among individuals and it is possible to end the repetition of cycles:

In the third round of Delphi, in all indices, at least 90% of the respondents considered the indices to have a score of agreeing and strongly agreeing (having an average higher than 3). Kendall coordination coefficient for the answers of members in the third round is equal to 0.124. Given that the number of respondents was more than 10, this amount of Kendall coefficient is quite significant.

Table 3: Delphi third round results

Topic	Index	Lowest score	Highest Score	Mean	SD
1 The relationship between	Appropriate anti-narcotics policies reduce demand, production and consumption and thus improve social security.	2	5	4.1	0.912
2 public policy in the field of	In order to have a favorable anti-narcotics policy, there must be a logical relationship between the goals and the possibilities to achieve them.	2	5	3.45	0.826
3 combating drug trafficking	Insufficient control and supervision over the work of pharmacies leads to easy access to drugs, especially industrial ones.	2	5	3.2	0.951
4 and social security	Paying attention to preventive policies and drug-based treatment will improve the social security environment.	2	5	3.65	0.988
5	A coordinated relationship between law enforcement and the judiciary and the speeding up of related judicial cases can build public trust.	2	5	3.75	0.967
6	A comprehensive border control policy can prevent drug trafficking and thus ensure social security in the country.	2	5	3.75	1.070
7	Close communication between policymakers, educational institutions and non-governmental organizations on anti-narcotics can lead to social security.	2	5	4.1	0.852
8 The role of drug	Drug trafficking increases cultural problems such as ethnic conflicts and identity crises.	2	5	3.3	0.979
9 trafficking on social	Drug trafficking leads to class distance (overnight).	1	4	3.05	0.887
10 security	Drug trafficking leads to problems for women such as prostitution, which is one of the new consequences of drug trafficking in the country.	2	5	3.65	0.813
11	Drug trafficking leads to money laundering and economic corruption	1	5	3.15	1.089
12	Drug trafficking leads to an increase in the number of consumers in the community	3	5	4.15	0.671
13	Increasing demographic problems	2	5	3.6	0.940

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14	Drug trafficking leads to an increase in crime, violence and organized crime at the community level.	2	5	3.8	1.105
15	Drug trafficking leads to an increase in disorders in the family institution, including disorders, increase in domestic violence, use of children and women in drug dealing, divorces due to addiction and weakening of the family institution, increase in psychological problems.	1	5	3.6	0.995

**Conclusion:**

The ability of society to protect its core values against real and potential events and threats or to provide the necessary space and tools for the expression and design of different social groups. Today, with the expansion of security areas and the change in the view of security issues and special attention to social security in human life, a special look at the issue of social security is needed. One of the major challenges facing social security is the phenomenon of trafficking, which any country can choose solutions to this problem with the type of policy it pursues in relation to it. What was examined in this study, citing the opinion of law enforcement experts, has shown the role that drug trafficking can play in the country's social security. According to drug trafficking experts, the most important factor that leads to an increase in the number of users in the community is that the young consumer becomes a long-term addict in the community. The addicted person will also be a source of insecurity in the society because the mental focus of an addict is only on how he consumes and uses his drugs. The rule of social security for this person is a great obstacle to his daily life because he has difficulty in obtaining materials, so, it will disrupt the security of the community in any way he can.

2. Drug trafficking leads to an increase in crime, violence and organized crime at the community level. Drug trafficking requires being organized for distribution, production, and consumption. This process can lead to the formation of violent groups and the formation of organized crime in society. It should not be overlooked that in order to produce and distribute drug trafficking, government institutions can also enter these organizations and infiltrate the body of the political system of any country by giving huge bribes.

3. Drug trafficking leads to problems and issues of women such as prostitution, which is one of the new consequences of drug trafficking in the country.

4. Drug trafficking leads to an increase in disorder in the family institution and weakening of the family institution, including these disorders, increase in domestic violence, use of children and women in drug dealing, divorces due to addiction, increase in psychological problems in the family institution.

5. Drug trafficking leads to money laundering, economic corruption and in this way affects social security. The most important motive for the spread of drug trafficking in the world is the huge profits and huge revenues that come from the work of the organizers of trafficking gangs. Smugglers set up unrealistic companies and institutions to launder money and profits. On the other hand, in order to be successful in distribution, consumption and production, they pay bribes at the micro and macro levels.

6- Increasing demographic problems such as seasonal migrations, changing the gender and age pyramid of drug use, changing the shape of the population of the areas that are considered as the route of drug transfer and distribution.

7- Drug trafficking leads to class distance (overnight). The perpetrators of drug trafficking create class distance in society by earning large incomes. Going overnight and gaining a lot of financial resources should be considered as a model for people in the community. The desire



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of people who are struggling with the problem of unemployment and poverty to increase income and earn money to distribute drugs.

8. Drug trafficking leads to an increase in cultural problems such as ethnic conflicts and identity crises in society, which can play a role in the security of society.

All of the above is an indication of the role and impact of drugs on social security and endangering social security. But the other point of this research that seeks to highlight it is the role of public policy that can reduce the destructive effects of trafficking on society; because, according to the experts surveyed in this study, appropriate policies to combat drugs reduce demand, production and consumption. Also, the close relationship between policy makers and educational institutions and non-governmental organizations and the legal and executive system of the country can be effective in this process. It should be noticed that in order to choose the optimal policy for Anti-narcotics, there must be a logical relationship between the goals and the possibilities to achieve them. It should also be noted that the insignificant role of scientific and academic centers in the policy-making, planning and implementation process in the decisions of the Secretariat of the Anti-Narcotics Headquarters is obvious; which is one of the biggest weaknesses of this policy.

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