

AN EXPLORATORY FRAMEWORK OF DRUG RELATED CRIME IN FORENSIC SCIENCES AND CRIMINOLOGY

SUJIT KUMAR SARKER^{1*} and ERWIN MARTINEZ FALLER²

¹International Medical School, Management & Science University, Selangor, Malaysia

²School of Pharmacy, Management & Science University, Selangor, Malaysia

*Email: sujit_swapna@yahoo.com

Accepted 27 October 2016, Published online 21 December 2016

ABSTRACT

Inevitably, drug and crime are correlated as a global contributor to the social problems. According to World Drug Report (2015) of the United Nations Office on Drug and Crimes (UNODC), a total of 246 million people or 1 out of 20 people between the ages of 15 and 64 years, uses illegal drugs. Goldstein's (1985) conceptual analysis offered a tripartite classification of drugs violence connections. Goldstein's frameworks detailed on a psycho-social opportunity of drug users to commit a crime which focuses on a psychopharmacological link, compulsive economic link and systemic link. The research objective was to identify drug related crimes in forensic sciences and criminology that may be essential for relative developmental framework. Results identified on major illegal drugs in relation to violence were cocaine, phencyclidine, lysergic acid diethylamide, methamphetamine, ecstasy, heroin, marijuana, etc. The crimes most often committed by illegal drug users were theft, burglary, robbery, prostitution, assault, rape etc. This framework cleared the importance of drug related crime. There is a need for concrete developmental agenda, integrated responses and health intervention scheme besides the law for prevention of drug related crime.

Key words: Drug related crime, Violence and drugs, Drug and crime framework

INTRODUCTION

One of the impacts of drug and crime are associated with societal problems. Goldstein's (1985) conceptual essay offered a tripartite classification of drugs and violence connections. Goldstein's frameworks detailed on psycho-social opportunity of drug users to commit crime which focuses on psychopharmacological link, compulsive economic link and systemic link (Goldstein, 1985; MacCoun *et al.*, 2003). According to World Drug Report (2015) of the United Nations Office on Drug and Crimes (UNODC), a total of 246 million people between the ages of 15 and 64 years, uses illegal drugs. Nearly half (12.19 million) of those problem drug users inject drugs and a likely of 1.65 million of those who inject drugs were living with HIV in 2013 (UNODC, 2015).

Holloway emphasized on variety of factors that may influence the relationship between drug use and crime such as behaviour, socio-political relationship etc. (Trevor & Katy, 2009). Literature showed that,

there is a relationship between drug misuse and criminal conduct. Furthermore, criminal behaviour has been sustained by the increasing use of illegal drugs. Complex looping between drug and crime have reviewed on subcultural and ecological theory. It suggests that, drug use and crime may come out from the same etiological variables and become an integral part of a street-drug-using lifestyle and subculture. Moreover, radical theory expostulates that, drug-crime relationship is formed by social policy that illegalizes drug use, which fails to recognize the complexity of the drug-crime relationship (McBride *et al.*, 1993). According to Steven, concept of discourse coalition approach has been translated into United Kingdom drug policy to explore the socio-political construction of drug related crime. It has been assumed that, there is an overlap among known offenders, unknown offenders and drug users (Steven, 2007).

Drugs and crime connections are immense (Boyum *et al.*, 2011; Caulkins & Kleiman, 2011) including the coverage of demand and supply. Transnational drug trafficking remains a challenge and trafficking organizations have been a dumpsite

* To whom correspondence should be addressed.

for local production of smuggled marijuana, heroin and amphetamine-type stimulants in Asian territories like Thailand, Myanmar and Laos. Stimulants such as ecstasy, crystal methamphetamine and nimetazepam are trafficking through the boundaries of China, Iran, Nigeria, and India. Centres of criminality and illegal drug smuggling of the country should monitor in and out of smuggling drug, to break the regional trafficking hub (BINLEA, 2016). According to Taylor, imported and locally produced drugs such as methamphetamine causes higher level of criminal activity. Technology used by market dealers and structural foundation of market organization are significantly associated with higher levels of community problems (Taylor *et al.*, 2011). Variableness of source of drug production is one of the characteristics that local authorities should consider in dealing drug trafficking (Brownstein *et al.*, 2012).

Alcohol also plays a vital role in drug and crime relationship. According to Wieczorek (1990) 50% of the offenders were under the influence of alcohol during the offense. Several studies noticed that, there is an association between heavy alcohol drinking and crime. There are more prevalent cases of crime among homicide offenders who drink more alcohol (Wieczorek *et al.*, 1990). Moreover, Parker & Auerhahn (1998) also added substantial models on the importance of social context in understanding violence and the ways in which alcohol and drugs are related to violence. Experimentation also revealed that, respondents under the influence of cocaine with alcohol are likely to confine violent offense (Leigey & Bachman, 2007).

The objective of present study was to identify drug related crimes in forensic sciences and criminology that may be essential for relative developmental framework.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

For the present study, the information and data were collected from Pubmed and Google Scholar databases, which has been published in English and identified the common drugs and related crimes. The developmental framework has been explored based on the gathered secondary data.

RESULTS

Drugs and crime are linked in a number of ways. Many cases drug users commit crimes to get money to buy drugs. But there is a complex link between drug use and crime. Poverty, personality disorders,

social and cultural variables, relationships with other users are all factors (Esbec & Echeburúa, 2016). Drug related crimes are the greatest concerns of law-enforcement officials, scientists, citizens, policy-makers, and physicians. White & Gorman (2000) explain the relationship between drugs and crime connection through three explanatory models: (1) substance use leads to crime (2) crime leads to substance use, and (3) the relationship is either coincidental or explained by a set of common causes. Goldstein (1985) explained that, substance abuse leads to crime, via his popular tripartite conceptual framework. It includes psychopharmacological model, economic compulsive model, and systemic violence model. The psychopharmacological model proposes that the effects of illegal drug-use cause criminal behaviour. The economic compulsive model suggests the drug-users engage in specific economic driven crime to support their drug habit. Systemic model suggests that the world of drug dealing is inherently violent (Goldstein, 1985). This study reviewed the available information regarding drugs and crime. Based on that results identified on major illegal drugs in relation to violence were cocaine, phencyclidine, lysergic acid diethylamide, methamphetamine, ecstasy, heroin, marijuana etc. Studies in Taiwan and Korea noticed that, methamphetamine remained as an eminent drug in both countries for many years (Feng *et al.*, 2016). The crimes most often committed by illegal drug users were theft, burglary, robbery, prostitution, assault, rape and anything unpredicted. Drug-facilitated sexual assault is prevalent in Western culture (McBrierty *et al.*, 2013). Studies also reported drug-facilitated sexual assault with the use of tetrahydrozoline (Spiller & Siewert, 2012). Fig. 1 described Goldstein framework in committing crimes which includes psycho-pharmacological, economic and social link. Fig. 2 highlighted common drugs used to commit crime. Fig. 3 described crimes committed by drug users.

DISCUSSION

Illegal drugs use are global concern now (Feng *et al.*, 2016). The relationship between drugs and crime are linked with few possible ways: (1) immediate effect of drugs may facilitate aggression or theft, (2) when the drug users need to consume but lack of fund that may lead to burglary, robbery etc. (3) during illegal trading. Goldstein (1985) framework is applicable to both violence and nonviolent crimes. Psychopharmacological effect of drugs can increase predatory crimes (e.g. robbery, burglary, theft), entrepreneurial crimes (e.g. drug dealing or prostitution) and the absence of mediation may lead to assault and murder. Wilson (1991), National

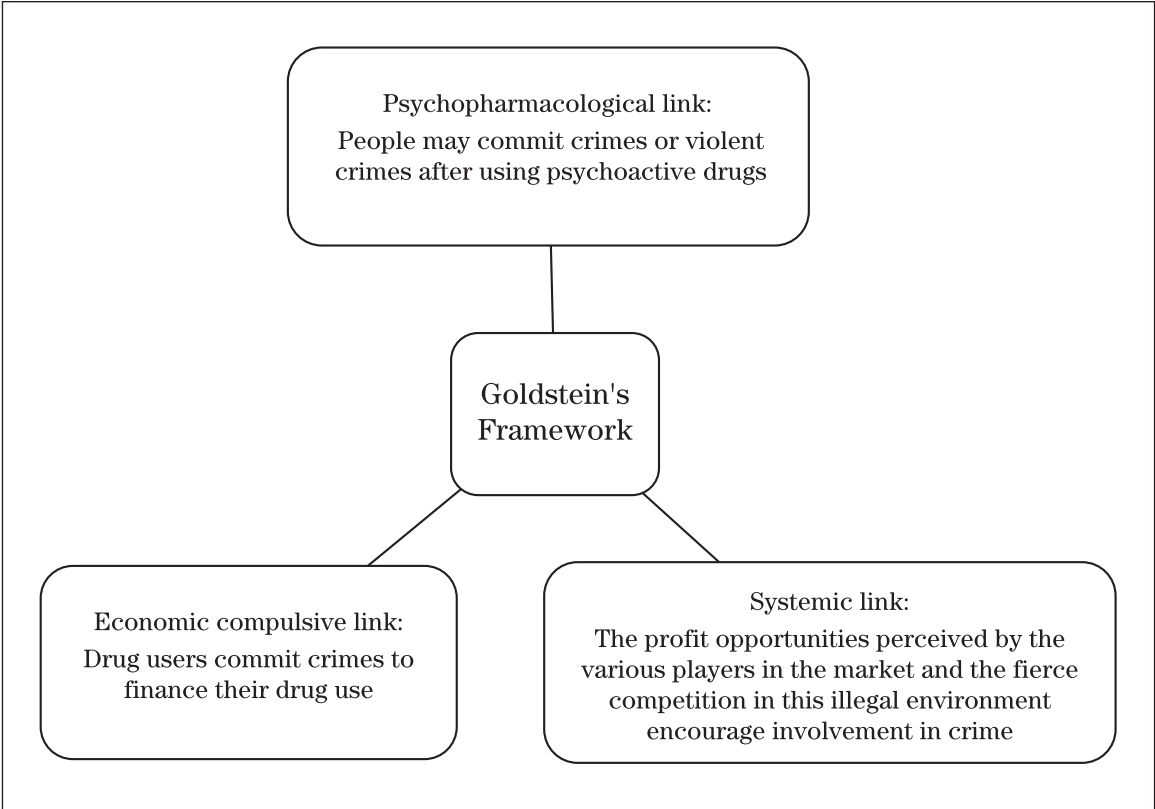


Fig. 1. Goldstein Framework in committing crime.

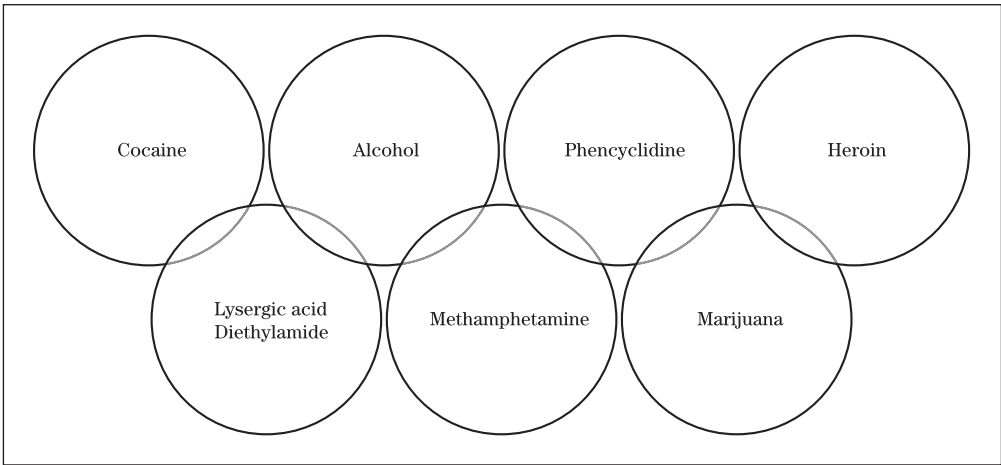


Fig. 2. Common drugs of abuse.

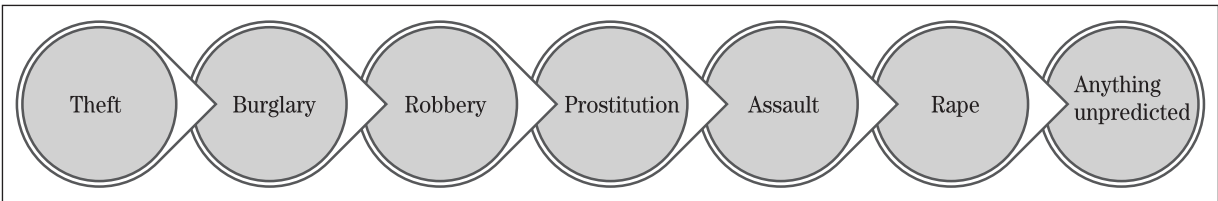


Fig. 3. Crime committed by drug users.

Institute of Justice (2003) and Inciardi & McElrath (2007) offer a wide knowledge concerning the drugs crime relationship. Office of National Drug Control Policy (2000) and Bureau of Justice Statistics (1998) discussed about the statistics and basic facts of drug related crime.

International drug law enforcement agencies have already identified an obvious rise of drug traffickers selecting to deal with different drugs (Hughes *et al.*, 2016). One Mexican study explored that, economic activities of drug trafficking organizations are spread across the countries and represent a huge share of economic activity (González, 2015). Organized efforts worldwide are tremendously implemented to solve drug related use. Treatment accessibility and availability including increasing the economic opportunities within the framework of national drug policy and enforcement (McBride & McCoy, 1993). One of which is the Day reporting centre (DRC) in Cook County, Illinois that serving African Americans with limited education and job experience and extensive histories of opiate and cocaine use. Studies have proved that, the participants reduce their drug use, while in the program. Participants also had a very low rate of arrests on new charges (McBride & Waal, 1997). Moreover, the study of McCambridge & Strang (2004) on motivational interviewing is an effective non-treatment tool in reducing the use of cannabis and alcohol mainly through moderation of ongoing drug use rather than cessation. Greater risk was also seen among youth due to vulnerable or high-risk McCambridge & Strang (2004) In Malaysia, full establishment of rehabilitation centre was established by the National Anti-drugs Agency (AADK, 2016). Cure and Care Rehabilitation centre and clinic services serves the need of drug use patients for psychosocial recovery through systematic and standardize implementation of friendly and therapeutic care.

CONCLUSION

This drug related crime framework clearly addresses the importance of illegal drug use and associated crime. A need for concrete developmental agenda and integrated responses in encompassing the robust criminal law to assure health-based approaches, health intervention scheme on prevention and treatment which maybe more relevant in current crime prevention.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Authors are thankful to all members of INFOMECEC 2016 (1st International Conference Forensic Sciences, Forensic medicine and Criminology) organised by Management and Science University.

REFERENCES

- Agensi Antidadah Kebangsaan Kementerian Dalam Negeri (AADK). 2016. Cure and Care Rehabilitation Centre. Retrieved last 17th June 2016, 11:50am at <http://www.adk.gov.my/web/english/ccrc;jsessionid=2BA77C4496D73D37E3837292809062FE>.
- Boyum, D., Jonathan, P.C. & Kleiman, M.A.R. 2011. Drugs, crime, and public policy. In: James Q Wilson and Joan Petersilia (Eds), *Crime and Public Policy*. Oxford University Press, 368-410 pp.
- Brownstein, H.H., Mulcahy, T.M., Huessy, J.F., Taylor, B.G. & Woods, B. 2012. The organization and operation of illicit retail methamphetamine markets. *Criminal Justice Policy Review*, **23**(1): 67-89.
- Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (BINLEA). 2016. International Narcotics Control Strategy Report 2016. Retrieved last 16th June 2016, 11:41am at <http://www.state.gov/j/inl/rls/nrcrpt/2016/vol1/253286.htm>.
- Bureau of Justice Statistics. 1998. *Alcohol and crime: An analysis of national data on the prevalence of alcohol involvement in crime*. Washington, DC.
- Caulkins, J.P. & Kleiman, M.A.R. 2011. Drugs and crime. In: Michael Tonry (Ed), *Oxford Handbook of Crime and Criminal Justice*. Oxford University Press, pp. 275-320.
- Esbec, E. & Echeburúa, E. 2016. Substance abuse and crime: considerations for a comprehensive forensic assessment. *Adicciones*, **28**(1): 48-56.
- Feng, L.Y., Yu, W.J., Chang, W.T., Han, E., Chung, H. & Li, J.H. 2016. Comparison of illegal drug use pattern in Taiwan and Korea from 2006 to 2014. *Substance Abuse Treatment, Prevention, and Policy*, **11**(1): 34.
- González, F. 2015. Drug Trafficking Organizations and Local Economic Activity in Mexico. *Public Library of Science*, **10**(9): e0137319.
- Goldstein, P.J. 1985. The drugs/violence nexus: A tripartite conceptual framework. *Journal of Drug Issues*, **15**: 493-506.

- Hughes, C.E., Chalmers, J., Bright, D.A. & McFadden, M. 2016. Poly-drug trafficking: Estimating the scale, trends and harms at the Australian border. *International Journal of Drug Policy*, **31**: 80-9.
- Inciardi, J.A. and Karenm, M.E. 2007. *The American drug scene: An anthology*. 5th Ed. Oxford Univ. Press, New York.
- Wilson, J.Q. 1991. Drugs and crime. In: Michael Tonry & James Q. Wilson (Eds), *Crime and justice: A review of research*. University of Chicago Press.
- Leigey, M.E. & Bachman, R. 2007. The influence of crack cocaine on the likelihood of incarceration for a violent offense: an examination of a prison sample. *Criminal Justice Policy Review*, **18**(4): 335-352.
- MacCoun, R., Kilmer, B. & Reuter, P. 2003. Research on Drugs-Crime Linkages: The Next Generation. National Institute of Justice. pp.65-95.
- McBride, D.C. & McCoy, C.B. 1993. The drug-crime relationship: an analytical framework. *The Prison Journal* September, **73**(3): 257-278.
- McBride, D. & Waal, V.C. 1997. Day reporting centres as an alternative for drug using offenders. *Journal of Drug Issues*, **27**(2): 379-397.
- McCambridge, J. & Strang, J. 2004. The efficacy of single-session motivational interviewing in reducing drug consumption and perceptions of drug-related risk and harm among young people: results from a multi-site cluster randomized trial. *Addiction*, **99**(1): 39-52.
- McBrierty, D., Wilkinson, A. & Tormey, W. 2013. A review of drug-facilitated sexual assault evidence: an Irish perspective. *Journal of Forensic and Legal Medicine*, **20**(4): 189-97.
- National Institute of Justice. 2003. *Toward a drugs and crime research agenda for the 21st century*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice.
- Office of National Drug Control Policy. 2000. *Drug related crime*. Rockville, MD: Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse.
- Parker, R.N. & Auerhahn, K. 1998. Alcohol, drugs and violence. *Annual Review of Sociology*, **24**: 291-311.
- MacCoun, R., Kilmer, B. & Reuter, P. 2003. Research on Drugs Crime Linkages: The Next Generation. National Institute of Justice, p. 65-95.
- Steven, A. 2007. When two dark figures collide: Evidence and discourse on drug related crime. *Social Policy*, **27**(1): 77-99.
- Spiller, H.A. & Siewert, D.J. 2012. Drug-facilitated sexual assault using tetrahydrozoline. *Journal of Forensic Sciences*, **57**(3): 835-842.
- Trevor, B. & Katy, H. 2009. The casual connection between drug misuse and crime. *British Journal of Criminology*, **49**(4): 513-531.
- Taylor, B.G., Brownstein, H.H., Mulcahy, T.M., Huessy, J.F., Woods, D.J. & Hafford, C. 2011. The characteristics of methamphetamine markets and their impact on communities. *Criminal Justice Review*, **36**(3): 312-331.
- United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). 2015. World Drug Report 2015. *United Nation Publication*, pp.5-18.
- White, H.R. & Gorman, D.M. 2000. Dynamics of the Drug-Crime Relationship. In G. LaFree (Ed), *The Nature of Crime Continuity and Change*, pp.151-218.
- Wieczorek, W.F., Welte, J.W. & Abel, E.L. 1990. Alcohol, drugs and murder: a study of convicted homicide offenders. *Journal of Criminal Justice*, **18**(3): 217-227.

