A Review of Economic Behaviour of Drug Consumers

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Abstract:
Illicit drug problem is one of the most worrying issues of the present century in all countries and anti-drug addiction programs are included in the agenda of all governments and international community. Drug abuse/addiction in Iran has been one of the most important social and economical problems for several years and the number and percentage of drug users/addicts are growing. Campaign against this phenomenon needs in-depth recognition of all aspects (economic, social and political) of this problem. So, such programs will be successful in fighting against illicit drugs and drug addiction if they are developed and implemented through a realistic recognition. One can not hope the success of anti-drug programs if they are not planned on the basis of researches. Therefore, reviewing the economical aspect of illicit drugs via users’ viewpoints will help to understand illicit drug addiction phenomenon. In this article, the behaviour of drug users is studied on the basis of micro-economic traditional assumptions. The relation between demand and prices of illicit drugs, the relation between tendency to drug consumption and the amount of drug consumption and the relation between drug consumption and criminal acts are among the discussed issues of this article. Finally, a summary of the situation of illicit drug consumption is presented.

Keywords: drug users; flexibility of drug prices; rational model of drug addiction; flexibility of drug demand.