

Review of: "The Hidden Aspects of A Century of Substance Use Policymaking in Iran"

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Despite highly restrictive laws, drug use in Iran has increased significantly compared to the past. Fundamental is of course Iran's favourable geographical position, very close to Afghanistan, which is the world's largest producer of opium. Iran is a transit country for international trafficking and many young people use it because it is easily available. Iran's geographical location has always made the country a vital hub for the trade and spread of opium. The opportunities for financial gain offered by the drug trade have not escaped the notice of various militias and criminal organisations in neighbouring countries, particularly Afghanistan, which use many refugees, often forced to the margins of society, to deal and transport illegal substances across the Afghanistan/Iran border. The lack of controls in remote areas, often due to the connivance of the military apparatus, has only amplified this situation. I believe that the flow of money that fuels this market and often finances new conflicts is certainly stronger than any policy adopted so far to counter the spread of opium such as legalisation, prohibition or criminalisation. Although the manuscript is well written and very interesting, I think a paragraph on the problem of international drug trafficking should be included and not just mentioned.