Abstract

From the drug dealers present at the nook and corners of the country to the clandestine meth lab in the abandoned provinces, from hundreds of pounds of drugs seized, to few grams of controlled substances recovered from the individuals, illegal drugs infiltrate the entire country in some or the other way. Over the past decade, new and more dangerous drugs have penetrated the market along with the conventional drugs. Synthetic drugs, pharmaceutical preparations, precursor chemicals, psychoactive substances etc. are gradually capturing the illegitimate drug markets. The illegal drug trade holds the capability of creating a global black-market economy which could shake the entire economy of any nation. Drugs were present in the society, they are present in the society and also, they will be there in the society. The only thing which has been changing over the past few years are the types of drugs trafficked, modus operandi of trafficking and profile of drug traffickers etc.

This piece of research is an attempt to put different aspects of drug trafficking like trend, modus operandi, profile of the drug traffickers, preparedness of the investigating agencies and problems and constraints faced by the enforcement authorities at one place. Adopting the exploratory research design and triangulation methodology which is inclusive of quantitative as well as qualitative analysis, the study was conducted in Delhi. The data was collected from convicts of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 which are lodged in Tihar Jail, Investigation Officers of drug crimes, Judges and experts of the field with the help of Interview schedules and Interview guides.

Starting off with the elucidation of basic concept of drugs and drug trafficking, detailed thematic review of literature has been conducted. Keeping the main objectives of the study in mind, recent trends in drug trafficking and modus operandi of the drug traffickers have been highlighted. Thematic analysis of nine case studies has been done. The information for the
cases was collected by the researcher from the convicts of drug trafficking in Tihar Jail, New Delhi.

Socio-Economic and demographic antecedents of the drug traffickers have also been analyzed in the study. Various statistical tests like Chi-Square test, Independent-T test and One-way ANOVA have been applied to determine the effect of various Socio-Economic and demographic variables on several aspects of drug trafficking. Facts like educated traffickers are less remorseful of committing crime and also the traffickers from financially sound background are more prone to indulge into drug trafficking again etc. have been revealed in the study.

Since investigating personnel are the first one to encounter the drug cases, their preparedness to tackle drug crimes has been analyzed and it was discovered that the investigation staff are under-prepared and under-equipped to deal with drug menace. Techniques like Exploratory Factor Analysis and Confirmatory Factor Analysis have been used to determine the underlying factors pertaining to preparedness of the police. The governing legislative policy i.e. The NDPS Act, 1985 was critically analyzed with the help of interviews conducted and several shortcomings of the Act in procedural and investigative laws have been highlighted. Also, the problems faced by the investigative authorities while dealing with drug cases have been dealt in detail with the help of interviews.

The study has been concluded by delineating the conclusion drawn for each framed objective. Keeping in mind the fact that drug menace is going to endanger the social, economic and political systems in the country in the near future, unless and until efforts are made on war-footing to control it by specific legislative and executive interventions, some suggestions have been made at the end of the work, envisioning the control over drug epidemic, to certain extent.