

Czech University of Life Sciences Prague

Institute of Tropics and Subtropics

Diploma Thesis

Trade with Opium and its Impact on Development Aid in Afghanistan

Obchod opiem a jeho vliv na otázku rozvojové pomoci v Afghánistánu



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Obchod opiem a jeho vliv na otázku rozvojové pomoci v Afghánistánu

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Field of Study: International Economic Development

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Declaration

I declare that I have worked on my diploma thesis titled “Trade with Opium and its Impact on Development Aid in Afghaistan” by myself and I have used only the sources mentioned at the end of the thesis.

Signature:

Date:

Abstract

This research describes Trade with Opium and its Impact on Development Aid in Afghanistan. In particular, the study discusses the reasons behind the opium production, tries to find out the barriers which made the government of Afghanistan fail to eradicate opium production and trade, explores the role of development aid in reducing the opium cultivation, production and trade and analyzes the impacts of opium trade on development aid that Afghanistan receives.

To achieve these objectives a number of questionnaires were distributed among people and the results were analyzed, interpreted and shown in the charts. The data were collected from 51 government employees who work in different ministries in Kabul city and 73 farmers from Uzbeen valley of the Surobi district of Kabul, Afghanistan.

The study has identified that opium is produced in the country because of unemployment, poverty etc; but the main reasons have been described as lack of law enforcement, lack of government efforts and insecurity or insurgency. Opium production and trade has somehow helped insurgents to insecure the country, caused reduction in the number of developmental projects in the country and made the country stay backward. The study has found out that the main affected regions in Afghanistan are the southern and eastern regions. It has also discovered that opium production and trade helps more not the farmers but, that of the insurgents, some of the political opposition leaders in the affected regions and corrupt officials.

The study has also identified the significance of the development aid given to the government of Afghanistan. It has found out that Afghanistan does not have a stable and standard economy and it depends on aid provided by the international community.

It has also found out that, the development aid helped the country to reduce opium production in a number of provinces and if aid is not provided to the government of Afghanistan, it might collapse, if not, opium production and trade will increase more and the country become even more insecure.

Keywords: Afghanistan, opium production and trade, development aid, lack of law enforcement, government efforts, international community

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AUTHORIZATION TO LEND THE THESIS

As the sole author of this thesis, I authorize Czech University of Life Sciences Prague to lend it to other institutions or individuals for the purpose of scholarly research.

Date:.....

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Edrees Fayez, Author

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List Abbreviations

USSR.....	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
USA.....	United States of America
UK.....	United Kingdom
MCN.....	Ministry of Counter Narcotics of Afghanistan
MOI.....	Ministry of Interior Affairs of Afghanistan
NDS.....	National Directorate Security of Afghanistan
NATO.....	North Atlantic Treaty Organization
ISAF.....	International Security Assistance Force
OEF.....	Operation Enduring Freedom-Afghanistan
CIA.....	Central Intelligence Agency
GDP.....	Gross Domestic Product
USD.....	United States Dollar
EU.....	European Union
UN.....	United Nations
WB.....	World Bank
PRT.....	Provincial Reconstruction Team
IMF.....	International Monetary Fund
USAID.....	United States Agency for International Development
UNODC.....	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
CNTF.....	Counter Narcotics Trust Fund

UNDP.....United Nations Development Program

Govt.....Government

Ha.....Hectare

Mt.....Metric Ton

1. Introduction

This thesis has been written about ' Trade with Opium and its Impact on Development Aid in Afghanistan. The goal for writing this thesis was to find out the context of opium production, how it is traded and impact of its trade on economic development and development aid in Afghanistan. It also aimed to find out why opium production has increased in Afghanistan, the barriers which made the government of Afghanistan fail to eradicate opium production and trade, the role of development aid in reducing the opium cultivation, production and trade and finally to interpret and analyze the impacts of opium trade on development aid that Afghanistan receives.

To achieve all those above mentioned objectives the Author of this thesis conducted a research. A semi-structured questionnaire was made and discussed with 124 people in Kabul city and Uzbeen valley of Surobi district of Kabul, Afghanistan. Out of these 124 respondents 51 of them were government employees who work in different ministries in Kabul and 73 of them were farmers who live in Uzbeen valley.

Before the Author gives more information about this thesis, would like to proceed introduction with Ms Angelika Schückler in charge of the FAO Agricultural Management, Marketing and Finance Service speech in regards with poppy or opium production in Afghanistan and will discuss it with more details in results and discussion chapter.

"Rural poverty and the lack of income are the main reasons why farmers produce opium,"

"Farmers need inputs for orchards, forestry, irrigation and livestock, as well as access to credit and training. Infrastructure, health and education services need to be restored,"

"Only if poppy production is seriously cut back through strong law enforcement and if the overall production environment improves significantly, will farmers finally switch to alternative crops,"
(Schückler 2004)

In addition to introduction, this thesis is also consisting of some other more chapters such as; literature review, objectives, methodology, results and discussion, conclusion and recommendation.

In literature review, the Author has given general information about Afghanistan, explained brief history of opium in general, context of opium production and trade in Afghanistan, development aid, role of international community in providing aid to the government of Afghanistan, opium and

development and efforts of the government of Afghanistan and its international allies for opium eradication.

Objective of the thesis describes its aim and includes its hypothesis as well. Methodology of the thesis defines the study area, tools of data collection, data analysis method used and limitation of the study. Result and discussion are more about the responses, received from the respondents, analyzed, interpreted and discussed.

Finally the thesis has been concluded as well as some recommendations have been given to reduce the level of opium production and trade and to be able to achieve development aid and utilize it in a proper way.

2. Literature Review

2.1 Afghanistan

Afghanistan is a land locked country with an estimated population of almost 29 million people located in the center of Asia sharing border with many countries. It is bordered with Islamic Republic of Iran in the west, Islamic Republic of Pakistan in the south and southeast, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan in the north and China in the northeast. [6]

Politically Afghanistan has been sub-divided into 34 provinces and the major cities are Kabul (capital city) Herat, Balkh, Kandahar, Jalalabad and Kunduz. The government type is Islamic Republic and like many other countries it is made up of three different branches such as; Executive (President or Chief of the state), Legislative (National Assembly or Parliament) and Judicial which is consist of Supreme court, high court and appeal courts. [42]

Afghanistan is land of minorities and it is composed of many different nationalities. The major nationalities are Tajik, Pashtun, Hazara and Uzbek and also many other nationalities such as Turkmen, Aimaq, Baluch, Nuristani, Kizilbash Hindus and some others.

The majority of people of Afghanistan are considered to be Muslims. Though the religions as well as the nationalities are indicated by some percentages in Afghanistan, but It is preferred not to write those information since the population census has never been taken precisely. [6]

2.2 History

Afghanistan as a country was established in 1747 by Ahmad Shah Durrani. [31] It has experienced wars and invasions for several times. People of Afghanistan have fought three times against British Empire invasion of Afghanistan in 1939-42, 1878-81 and finally, they could get its independence from British Empire by Amanullah Khan in 1919. [4]

From 1919 onwards, the country could somehow develop and build some roads, schools, universities, hospitals, airports as well as establish its Airlines and so on; but the development process was not as good as people expected, more could be done.

In 1979 the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) invasion of Afghanistan as well as injustice and social inequality made people to come together and start fighting both against the USSR Army and the government to achieve their rights and freedom. In 1989 the USSR army was defeated as well as withdrew from Afghanistan. [16]

In 1992, the government of Afghanistan was overthrown and Afghanistan experienced civil war till 1996. In 1996 Taliban, the Pakistani-Al-Qaida supported regime came to power and occupied most parts of Afghanistan. [5] The only person who was fighting for freedom against these terrorist groups was Ahmad Shah Massoud (Afghanistan's national hero) who was then assassinated by Al-Qaeda in September 9, 2001. [34]

After 9.11.2001 the USA forces came to Afghanistan to help Afghanistan's Anti-Taliban forces led by Ahmad Shah Massoud to defeat Taliban and they succeeded it that time. From 2001 onwards the international community has been helping Afghanistan in order to be rebuilt as well as to stand on its own.

Afghanistan has had great achievements since 2001. The examples of those achievements could be presidential and parliamentary elections, though many electoral frauds have been reported and taken place during the elections, still it can be considered as an achievement. The army, police, government institutions have been rebuilt. Many visible changes have been occurred since 2001 but, the only threat that has still remained is the existence of Taliban bases outside Afghanistan, their temporary and hidden presence inside the country and their attacks on International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) and Afghanistan's forces, government offices and civilians. The government of Afghanistan in cooperation and coordination with international community (USA) are trying to stabilize the country and their efforts still continue. [16]

2.3 Education

Afghanistan has many government and private schools and universities. The biggest and oldest university is Kabul University. [44] Primary school enrolment reaches to 74% (2009 est.) for men and 46% for women and the enrolment rate in secondary schools reach to 41% for men and 15% for women. Literacy rate for the youth (15-54 2008 est.) reaches to 49% for men and 29% for women. [22]

2.4 Health

Afghanistan's ministry of public health has tried its best to ensure quality health care for all people of Afghanistan and therefore; it has done a lot to achieve its goal with assistance it receives from international community. [45] The health condition has improved since 2001. Many hospitals have been rebuilt and many have been built newly in different parts of Afghanistan. 48% of people have access to improved drinking water where it differs in accordance with urban (78% 2008 est.) and rural (39%) areas population. Though the health condition has improved still there are some

problems to be resolved. The life expectancy rate reaches to 47 male (year) and 50 female, probability of dying under the age of 5 reaches to 199 per 1000 live birth, the probability of dying between 15 to 60 reaches to 440 male and 352 female per 1000 [32] The fertility rate is considered to be reached to 7.0 per women. [29]

2.5 Economy

The natural resources Afghanistan owns, is consist of natural gas, coal, oil, petroleum, lithium, copper, iron, salt and some others but, they are intact and have never been extracted properly in a standardized approach [33] and the country is still one of the 39 heavily indebted countries in the world [39] and its balance of trade is negative where The exports amount reached to USD 603 million in 2008 and imports USD 8.27 billion which cannot be compared. [40] Less manufacturing industries such as gas, cement, textile, furniture, cotton, carpet etc exist in the country and due to lack of government support and lack of access to technology and machineries they have not had major role in the country's economy. About 80% of the population are working in Agriculture sector. [35] The main agricultural crops of Afghanistan are wheat, opium (not included in exports), corn, fresh fruits, dry fruits, nuts, etc; other exporting products are carpet, Karakul, Sheep Skin and so on. Also many banks, telecommunication companies, airlines, small and medium sized enterprises offer services in Afghanistan. [33] Despite the all shortcomings, the government of Afghanistan has established three ministries for the purpose of economic development and they are ministry of commerce and industry the goal of which is to create an environment for sustainable economic growth for all people of Afghanistan [46], ministry of economy the aim of which is to strengthen the economy of the country and create job opportunities for people [47] and ministry of mines whose purpose is to develop the mining sector and natural resources through introducing of them to both national and international investors. [48]

2.6 Brief history of opium

Opium is a narcotic drug that is acquired from raw seedpods of opium poppy. [30] According to Martin Booth (1996) the opium poppy is botanically classified as *papaver somniferum*. The genus is named from the Greek noun for a poppy, the species from the Latin word meaning sleep inducing. [53] Though it is not easy to mention where it's geographic area of origin is but some says that, opium cultivation started during the ancient civilization of Mesopotamia around 3400 BC. It was first used by Persians and Egyptians and later on moved to Europe, China and India. [38] Also it is said that the oldest poppy opium capsules were discovered in Switzerland. Opium plant is considered to be found in eastern Mediterranean or Minor Asia. Since opium poppy can adapt to

most ecological environment therefore, it could spread to all continents. Opium poppy cultivation has long history where it is said to be cultivated around human settlements as well as, was a way to finance empires and wars. For the first time opium production started in India under the British Empire in 19th century and it slowly became part of the world's illicit economy.

Tea which was produced in China purchased by British Traders with silver gained from South American mines. The trade continued until British Empire with East India Company could succeed to create opium market in China, first illicit smuggling and later on by forced imports as a consequence of which the so called opium war started (1839-1842 and 1856-1860) which caused China to have the highest number of addicts in the world history as well as made Hong Kong become part of the British Empire colony.

China could succeed in eradicating the opium production not soon but, after the Second World War and from then onwards opium production was transferred to the mountains and hills of the South East Asia where the so called Golden Triangle became the main source of opium production in the world. The countries which were belonging to the Golden Triangle were first Laos and Burma and later on Afghanistan was included.[30]

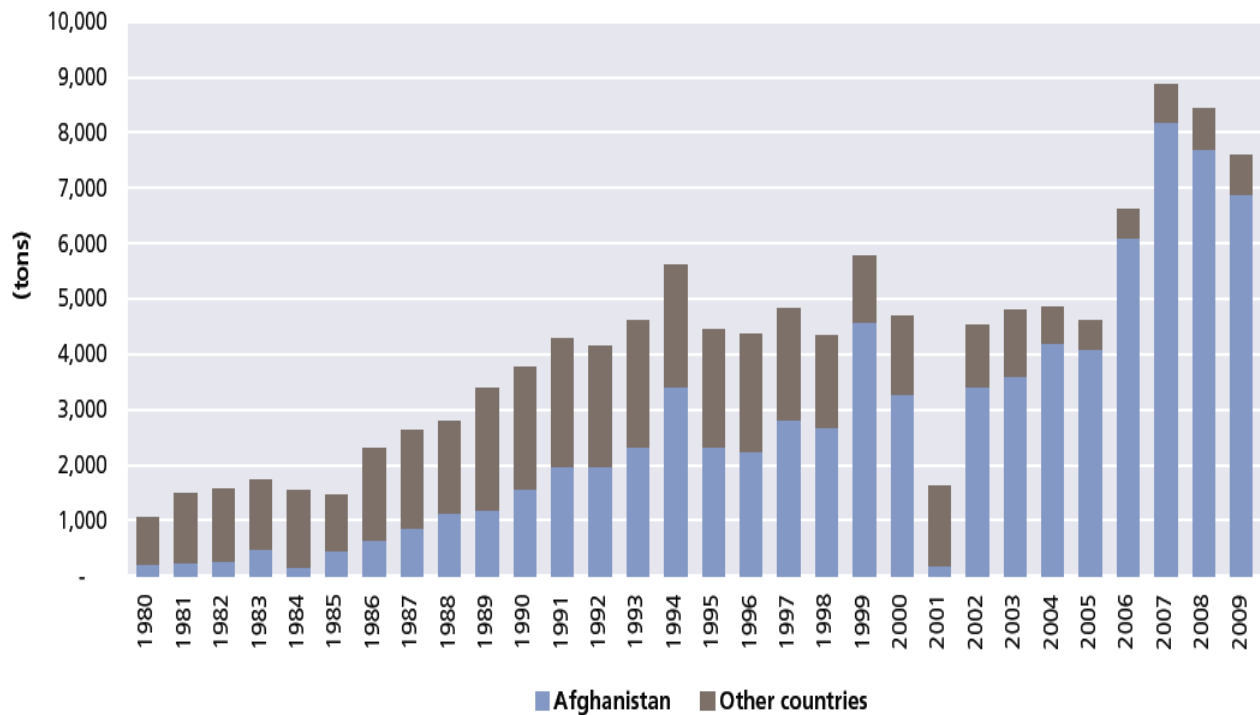
2.7 Context of Opium production in Afghanistan

It was 1972 , when the International Narcotics Control Board expressed that, suspicious illicit opium production is to increase in Afghanistan. It considered the country as the most immediate challenge. [23] But, opium cultivation started in 1980s when the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) started supporting Mujahedin of Afghanistan to fight Soviet Union Forces (USSR). Before it was cultivated in Pakistan where it produced more than eight hundred tons of opium in 1986 which was equivalent to 70% of world's heroin supply. Later on opium production was moved to the southern regions of Afghanistan by the Afghan commanders. As it was mentioned above as well, opium crop is poppy and when it is cultivated after few weeks it grows and looks like a bright red flowers. When the flowers grow more, the farmers let the petals fallen away and a hardened capsules seen and those capsules are lanced with blades.

After these operations the crop needs about four months to become mature and within this period they need excessive water and care. Finally, raw opium is slapped into a cake and kept wet in plastic bags until the drug dealers come. The drug dealers have special hidden laboratories in the mountains where they convert opium into heroin and 10 kg of opium produces 1 kg of heroin. [1]

From 1980s onwards Afghanistan has produced the huge amount of opium in the world which is shown in the chart below.

Figure 1: Global potential opium production, 1980-2009



Source: UNODC *World Drug Report* (figure for 2009 based on 2009 Survey results for Afghanistan and 2008 data for the rest of the world).

2.8 How opium is traded

According to Dominik H. Enste a growing shadow economy can be seen as the reaction of individuals who feel over burdened by the state and choose the “exit” option rather than the “voice” option. As increase of the shadow economy is caused by a rise in the overall tax and social security burdened coupled with institutional sclerosis, the increase of underground activities erodes the tax and social security bases. [55] Nevertheless, Shadow economy is a very complex issue in economic activities and it encompasses enormous economic activities such as distribution of illegal goods and services for instance; drug trafficking, arms trafficking or criminal economic activities, illegal employment and social fraud. [3] Similarly, an illegal complicated chain of traders have been established in Afghanistan which made the government and its international allies not to be able to find out who they are. They are organizations of various sizes in coordination and cooperation with corrupt officials. The total amount of opiate market is assumed to reach US\$ 65 billion (2009) and it is considered to be higher than the GDP of 120 countries in the world.

The amount that the Afghanistan's traders receive from heroin in Afghanistan Pakistan border is close to US\$3200/kg where the same amount of heroin in Europe cost about US\$150,000-170,000/kg.

On the other hand, one kg of heroin in Afghanistan-Iran border costs about \$5,000 where the price for the same amount of heroin is US\$8,000 in Iran-Turkey border. The smugglers who organize heroin trafficking from Afghanistan to Iran border and from Iran to Turkey border earn about US\$450- US\$600 million/year.

Also the assumed amount of opiate trafficking reaches to US\$1 billion in Afghanistan Iran border where the same amount in Iran Turkey border reaches to US\$1.4 billion a year. Also it is said, that the European opiate consumers spend on Afghanistan's heroin an average of US\$20 billion a year. As heroin become closer to its destination both their prices and the organized individuals or traders profits increase.

The price for one kg of heroin in Turkey-Bulgaria and Turkey Greece border reaches to US\$ 20,000 and the same amount turns to become US\$45,000 when it gets into Germany. The organized crime group profit who trade the heroin between Iran-Turkey border and Turkey Bulgaria and Turkey Greece borders is about US\$8,000/kg totaling around US\$ 600- US\$700 million.

The total opiate amount between Afghanistan Pakistan border reaches to US\$1 billion per year and it has partly become a source of income for insurgents (Taliban).

Chinese opiate consumers pay around US\$1 billion for local traders. Drug smugglers within China Myanmar borders are paid about US\$98,000/kg by Chinese drug dealers and sell it to retailers in China for about US\$130,000/kg.

In north and south America the total amount of opiate market reaches to US\$21 billion and in the United States alone it reaches to US\$7.8 billion (for opiate from Latin America/Mexico US\$2.5 and Afghanistan US\$5.3 billion).

Another way for illegal exportation of Afghan heroin/opium is Central Asia. About 25 % of Afghanistan's heroin/opium is traded through Central Asia into the Russian Federation. The total assumed amount of its market is about US\$ 350- US\$400 million.

Kazakhstan is considered to be the main center for Afghanistan opiate through which 50 tons of Afghanistan's heroin is sent to Russia and Russian opiate consumers pay about US\$13 billion per year to smugglers.

Till 2002, Afghanistan's opiate were only exported to Europe and somehow to U.S and also Canada. When the opiate production decreased in Myanmar it was when the Afghanistan opiate market was expanded across the world. [7]

2.9 Development aid

Aid or foreign aid is also a very vast and important topic. According to Hans Morgenthau (a well-known professor of international relations) foreign aid is today and will remain for some time an instrument of political power, David Lumsdaine argues that foreign aid cannot be explained on the basis of donor states political and economic interests, and that humanitarian concern in the donor countries formed the main basis of support for aid [54] but in general, it is considered to be the international transfer of funds in the forms of grants and loans from one government to to another. It can be offered directly through a government to another and indirectly through a NGO or a multilateral agency. [24] Development aid would be pool together aid spent on projects to develop areas such as; infrastructure, education, housing, health, services, gender empowerment, etc. [25] Since Afghanistan is a third world poor country therefore; it is not able to finance all development projects itself through its own revenues it annually earns. The government budget heavily relies on foreign aid. The development aid have been started to be given to the government of Afghanistan again since 2001, when the Taliban regime was toppled. [43]

Afghanistan's total revised budget amount reached to USD 4.782 billion after a deduction of USD 37.012 million in 2011. The amount mentioned here is not sufficient for everything in the country and therefore, some countries such as USA and EU countries take part in financing the Afghanistan's army as well as police. Donor grants finance significant part of Afghanistan's national budget. In 2011, grants have contributed 44.3% to operating budget and would approximately finance the overall development budget. (more than 74%).

The development budget estimated to be about USD \$1.575 billion and covers security, infrastructure, education, public health, social protection, economic, good governance and private sector development, agriculture and rural development, rule of law and human rights. [8] It is mentioned that 48% of Afghanistan's annual budget is composed of its own revenues where 52% of it is donated by international community.

Though the foreign aid has a great influence on development process in Afghanistan as well as brought tremendous visible changes in the country's structure, but still less amount of them are

spent by the government of Afghanistan or the government does not have full control over the amount of money used to develop Afghanistan.

It is foreign countries and foreign agencies that decide where to spend and how much. For example; in 2010 the public spendings reached to US\$ 16.9 billion, only US\$ 3.3 billion (20% of the total public spendings) were spent through the core budget and under the control of Afghan government.

The government of Afghanistan is trying to convince the donor countries to allow the country to spend at least 50% of development aid through its core budget in order to implement the projects more effectively but, they have not yet reached an agreement to do so. Even though the development projects are implemented by the donor countries still they are somehow efficient to some extent. [9]

2.10 Role of International Community in Providing Aid to Afghanistan

After 9/11, once the situation changed in Afghanistan. The USA government drafted a new plan which was called Operation Enduring Freedom-Afghanistan (OEF) and that would not be possible to realize unless the Americans supported the Anti-Taliban forces in Afghanistan. Few strong countries such as USA, United Kingdom (UK), Canada, Australia and Germany formed a coalition and attacked Afghanistan on October 7, 2001 to hunt Osama Bin Laden and oust the Taliban regime. [10]

From then onwards, many international conferences have been held for the purpose of helping both people and the government of Afghanistan. The first of such conferences which was held in December 2001 regarding to the situation of Afghanistan was the Bonn conference. In this conference the international community helped people of Afghanistan to establish a new interim government which could avoid civil war, disarm militias and make them join the country's national army and police and many other things. They also agreed to help Afghanistan to hold both presidential and parliamentary elections, they sent some troops to secure some parts of the country until the military forces of Afghanistan trained and increased and much other assistance which has really helped Afghanistan so far. [11]

Following the Bonn conference, Tokyo conference with participation of 61 countries and 21 international organizations at ministerial level was held. In this conference the international community stressed on significance of Bonn conference and pledged a strong commitment for assistance as well as reconstruction of Afghanistan. The government of Afghanistan had prepared a list of key priorities on reconstruction such as capacity building, education especially for girls, health and sanitation, infrastructures, agriculture and so on. The government also stressed more on

transparency as well as efficiency. At the end of the conference the participants committed an amount of 4.5 billion USD in order to support the government of Afghanistan and its policies. [36]

By 2004, another conference was held on Afghanistan in Berlin in which 54 nations met. Countries that were present in Berlin conference were Afghanistan, its neighbours, G8, all North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and European Union (EU) countries as well as institutions such as United Nations (UN) and World Bank (WB). The government of Afghanistan prepared a seven year plan for reconstruction which included education, health, social security, private and public administration development and so on and needed an amount of USD 27.5 billion. At the end, the international community pledged an amount of USD 8.2 billion because the government of Afghanistan did not have an overall control over the country. Afghanistan also adopted its constitution after long time again and based on that presidential elections took place in 2004 and parliamentary and provincial council elections in 2005. The conference was not only about the development aid but also to evaluate the past few years development process as well as to reduce poverty and increase economic growth. Despite the above mentioned issues, the participants also agreed that Afghanistan should adopt free market economic system. Another important issue was the establishment of provincial reconstruction teams (PRT) and their number increased from six to twenty one in order to help those who live in provinces and to develop provinces. [12]

Since, the international community has been committed to support the government of Afghanistan therefore, they have always tried to hold conferences almost every year or once in two years to know how effective their presence in Afghanistan is. Following the Berlin conference another conference was held in London in 2006.

In London conference the international community committed to provide resources to the government of Afghanistan to implement what was pledged during the Berlin conference as well as some other issues such as security, governance and rule of law, human rights, capacity building, counter narcotics and some others. In this conference, the government of Afghanistan was asked to improve the public administrations and recruit staffs (employees) based on merits. The other important thing which was mentioned in this conference was to improve the country's judiciary system in order to give the right punishment to those who disobey law and violate human rights in the country.

Similarly, other important issue which caught everyone's attention was economic development and the plan to eradicate narcotics. The international community committed to help the government of

Afghanistan to build infrastructures, get access to its natural resources, improve agriculture sector, health, education and to reduce unemployment. [13]

Many more international conferences were held after these conferences as well, such as; Rome in 2007, Paris 2008, Moscow 2009, Hague 2009, London again in 2010 etc; and the latest one was Bonn 2011 conference and many more conferences will be held. All the conferences held in regards with the situation in Afghanistan has been significant but the last one is more important since the security responsibilities are transferred from NATO or (ISAF) International Security Assistance Force to the Afghan military forces. This shows the assistance and patience of international community as well as the efforts of people of Afghanistan who are eager to stand on their own. Also Bonn 2011 conference was more different than the other conferences. Though many issues such as economic growth, human rights and so on were discussed in this conference as well, still there was a new issue that the international community discussed about.

It was transition and transformation. The transition of security responsibilities from ISAF to Afghanistan's forces started in 2011 and will end by the end of 2014. From 2015 to 2024 there will be a new era in the history of Afghanistan called transformation and within this period the government of Afghanistan will be able to lead the country on its own. [14] As the number of Afghanistan military forces has increased since 2001, where the number of army personnels has reached to 176350 and police 143000 and the target is to boost both the number of army and police to 352000 by the end of 2012 [41], the number of ISAF troops in Afghanistan will reduce by the end of 2014. In this conference the international community recommitted to finance military forces of Afghanistan as well as encouraged the investors to invest in mines and other sectors in order to make Afghanistan become a self-sustaining country. Also international community committed to help Afghanistan not to become a safe haven to terrorism again. They agreed with the government of Afghanistan's idea that terrorism does not only threaten Afghanistan's security but it has changed to regional and global security threat and therefore, they will not leave Afghanistan and its people alone as they did in 1990s. [14]

The total amount of aid which have been pledged by the international community to the government of Afghanistan since 2002 to 2013 is 62 billion USD of which, 26.7 billion USD was paid by 2009. [37] Knowing about all these conferences help one understand that Afghanistan will not be able to move ahead without international community development aid/assistance. The country has experienced dire situations throughout its history. All the changes that occurred during last ten years

take its root from international community financial and other types of funds as well as the efforts of people Afghanistan who have always been the victims of war and want to live a good life now.

2.11 Opium and Development

Opium cultivation, production and trafficking has become a serious threat for both Afghanistan and the world. It plays a tremendous role in every era; politics, economy, health, security, insurgency etc; in Afghanistan. The amount that is earned from its trade is huge and it has been mentioned above several times. Drug money has paralyzed building a legal economy, as no agriculture, industry or trade could compete with its profits.

As of 2005 when people of Afghanistan experienced elections for the first time, the money earned from drugs played an extraordinary role in elections. Although it was not proved, but it was mentioned that seventeen elected members of parliament were drug traffickers while twenty four other were connected to drug gangs.

The same many of the provincial governors and commissioner police and many other authorities were said to have been connected with drug trafficking but none of those allegations have been confirmed because of their influence in the country's politics. The main impact and the most important one that can be mentioned is that opium fuels insurgency in Afghanistan. [1] Insurgency has a very deep root in the last few decades of history of Afghanistan and is considered to be foreign interventions in Afghanistan's political affairs. Opium also became a major source of income to the insurgents to launch their destructive attacks on government officials and institutions as well as on civilians. Opium was financing different military and ethnic factions during 1990s civil war which caused a lot of deaths and casualties and starting from 2001 onwards, it has turned to become a source of income to the Taliban. The impact that opium has left behind is suicide attacks, road bombs, illiterate people etc; only between 2005 and 2006 the number of suicide attacks quintupled from 27 to 139 and road side bombings doubled from 783 to 1677 which killed many foreigners and locals and it still continues. [15]

The other effect that insurgency has left behind is burning schools and killing Teachers. Taliban somehow have control on some areas in south and South-east of the country and many people mostly girls and women have been affected by their presence on those areas. They are against educating people in particular women and therefore, they warn them of not attending schools and working for the government because they (Taliban) know that the educated people do not support

them and therefore, they either burn or close the schools or make people excluding women to attend the schools which are provided by them and those schools are used for the wrong means.

As a result of their warnings and threats many schools have been shut down. The number of students out of classes because of security threats have reached 300,000 in 2007 compare with 200,000 in the previous 12 months while the number of schools being closed increased from 350 to 590. Though the Taliban threaten people not to go to school they have not fully succeeded their objectives yet and despite their attacks, people in their communities in coordination with government could reduce the number of the Taliban attacks on schools from 187 in 2006 to 98 in 2007. [2]

Also, Taliban have supported those farmers who cultivate opium and whose farms are being destroyed by the government officials but, they still could not succeed winning support of the majority of people against the government and international community. As a consequence of that, the number poppy free provinces reached to 15, a number of schools reopened in south and south east and the process of transition of security from NATO or ISAF forces to Afghanistan forces started in 2011, and by 2014 it will end.

Despite all these achievements, there is fear of collapse of government of Afghanistan if NATO or ISAF will withdraw Afghanistan by 2014. Taliban are not as strong as NATO, American and Afghanistan forces but because of having safe havens in Pakistan as well as different sources of income including opium income, they can rarely disrupt security for awhile in many provinces and create fear among people as well as show their ability. [17]

As it has been mentioned above that, opium cultivation fuels insurgency in Afghanistan, the same insurgency slows down development aid, development projects and in general development process in Afghanistan. The donor countries such as USA, India, EU countries and some international organizations (IOs) like WB and International Monetary Fund (IMF) or Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs) such as Unites States Agency for International Development (USAID) etc; want to implement many development projects in Afghanistan but because of insurgents threats, the projects are either called off or the money is spent twice or three times on the same projects that have been implemented before by the above mentioned countries and organizations and destroyed by insurgents attacks, while the reconstruction money can finance many new development projects in different parts of the country which will be discussed later on.

2.12 Why opium in Afghanistan?

Opium and other substances for medicinal and social purposes have been used in Afghanistan for centuries. Apparently, intoxicant use has increased in the last three decades of war and instability in particular, in the last decade after the fall of the Taliban regime. Injecting use of drugs among the 120,000 heroin estimated users (2009) increased and 15 to 20 % of them having been injected. Injection is being considered as an imported behaviour which have been brought to Afghanistan by Afghanistan's refugees who migrated to Pakistan in 1990s and since then it has become a normative behaviour. The reasons for using drugs and its transition to injecting has been mentioned as political (instability) economic (poverty and unemployment) and peer influence or displacement from the family members. [26] Also some people use drugs to cope with the pain of existence in an impoverished war-torn land and produce drugs because, they are either threatened or consider drugs production as a necessary source of economic survival [27] and almost all villages with poor security situation are under poppy cultivation.[18]

Despite the above mentioned information, the government of Afghanistan and its international allies have always taken opium production as a serious problem for both Afghanistan and the world and therefore they are working together to find out solutions for eradication of not only opium but all types of drugs which are cultivated in Afghanistan. For this purpose some measures have been taken by both the government and its allies, and those measures or efforts are discussed as follow;

2.13 Government efforts for opium eradication

As opium eradication itself refers to action, force and control and has both military and medical meanings therefore; the government of Afghanistan also tried to build some institutions to eradicate opium in the country. [28] It was 2002, when the government of Afghanistan established the department of counter narcotics in National Directorate Security (NDS) and issued a decree which stated banning, use, cultivation, trade of all kinds of drugs. And in the same year the government also stated the decree of opium poppy eradication.

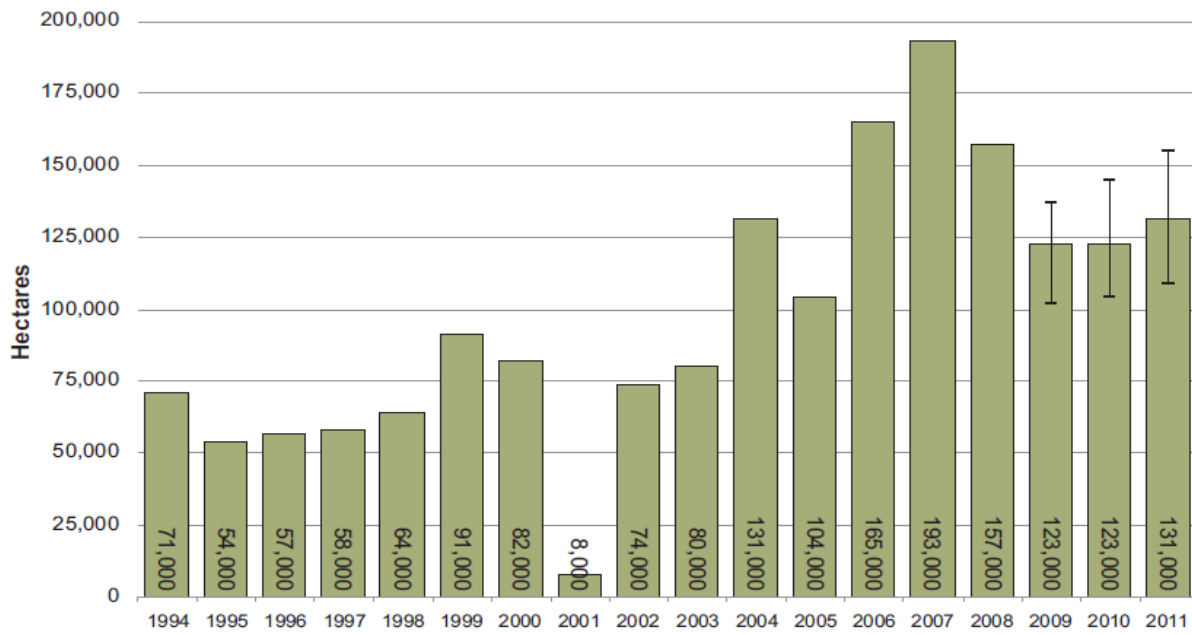
Due to the threats of increase in opium poppy production, in 2004 the government of Afghanistan established a new Ministry which is called Ministry of Counter Narcotics (MCN). The ministry responsibility is to develop, coordinate, monitor and evaluate Afghanistan's government counter narcotics strategies. Since opium poppy production is not only a serious problem in Afghanistan but it is a serious problem in the world as well, therefore in the same year (2004) the government of Afghanistan established a deputy minister for counter narcotics in interior ministry (MOI) in order

to become more committed in controlling and eradicating opium poppy production. The government strategy includes eradication of opium cultivation, arresting the opium traffickers, eliminating their bases, offering farmers alternative livelihoods, treatment of drugs addicts etc. [19] Also the government of Afghanistan and the international community started together to eradicate narcotics (opium) in Afghanistan. For achieving this goal the Counter Narcotics Trust Fund (CNTF) was established in 2005. The CNTF in charge is the government of Afghanistan via its designated institutions; the ministry of finance and MCN. United Nations Development Program (UNDP), as the administrator of CNTF is in charge of delivering the funds under national leadership.

It was established because of the following reasons, to offer alternative livelihoods, building institutions, public awareness, law enforcement, criminal justice, eradication, drug demand reduction and treatment of drug addicts and International and national co-operation. [20] After all measures that have been taken by the government of Afghanistan and its international allies in particular since 2001, cultivation of opium has shown both increase and decrease in the country. Though opium cultivation shows a significant decrease from 2007 to 2011 in hectares still, a 7 % increase is shown in 2011 compare with 2010. The government has not been successful in opium readication due to a very important issue which is insecurity and corruption.

The country has been enlisted as 3th most corrupt county in the world after Somali and Myanmar. [52] Under the chart, the names of the provinces of Afghanistan which are the main sources of opium production have been mentioned among which Kabul has been mentioned as well. Uzbeen Valley of Surobi district of Kabul province is one of the insecure villages of Surobi district where the presence of the insurgents is considered to be more than the government in the past few years and that is why it has made Kabul to be among opium producing provinces of Afghanistan.

Figure 2: Opium cultivation in Afghanistan (ha), 1994-2011



Source: (UNODC and MCN 2011 survey)

The total number of provinces in Afghanistan are 34 and they are categorized according to poppy cultivation as increasing, decreasing, stable and poppy free. Out of the 34 provinces, the main opium producing provinces in Afghanistan are Helmand, Kandahar, Farah, Uruzgan, Nangarhar, Badakhshan, Badghis, Day Kundi and Nimruz. [21] The number of Afghanistan’s provinces by level of poppy production is shown in the map of Afghanistan below and it has been prepared by both UNODC and MCN and it is from their latest survey which has been conducted in the year 2012.

3. Objectives

The aim of this study is to find out the context of opium production, how it is traded and impact of its trade on economic development and development aid in Afghanistan. Particularly, the study tries to answer the following questions:

- To find out why opium production has increased in Afghanistan.
- To find out the barriers which made the government of Afghanistan fail to eradicate opium production and trade.
- To explore the role of development aid in reducing the opium cultivation, production and trade.
- To analyze the impact of opium trade on development aid that Afghanistan receives.

3.1 Hypotheses

Opium production and trade will not stop unless the security situation improves.

4. Methodology

4.1 Research Methodology

This research is aimed at describing the trade with opium and its impact on development aid in Afghanistan. It does not stop at describing the existing issue but attempts to interpret them and finally, by making the use of data collected, it evaluates the practice.

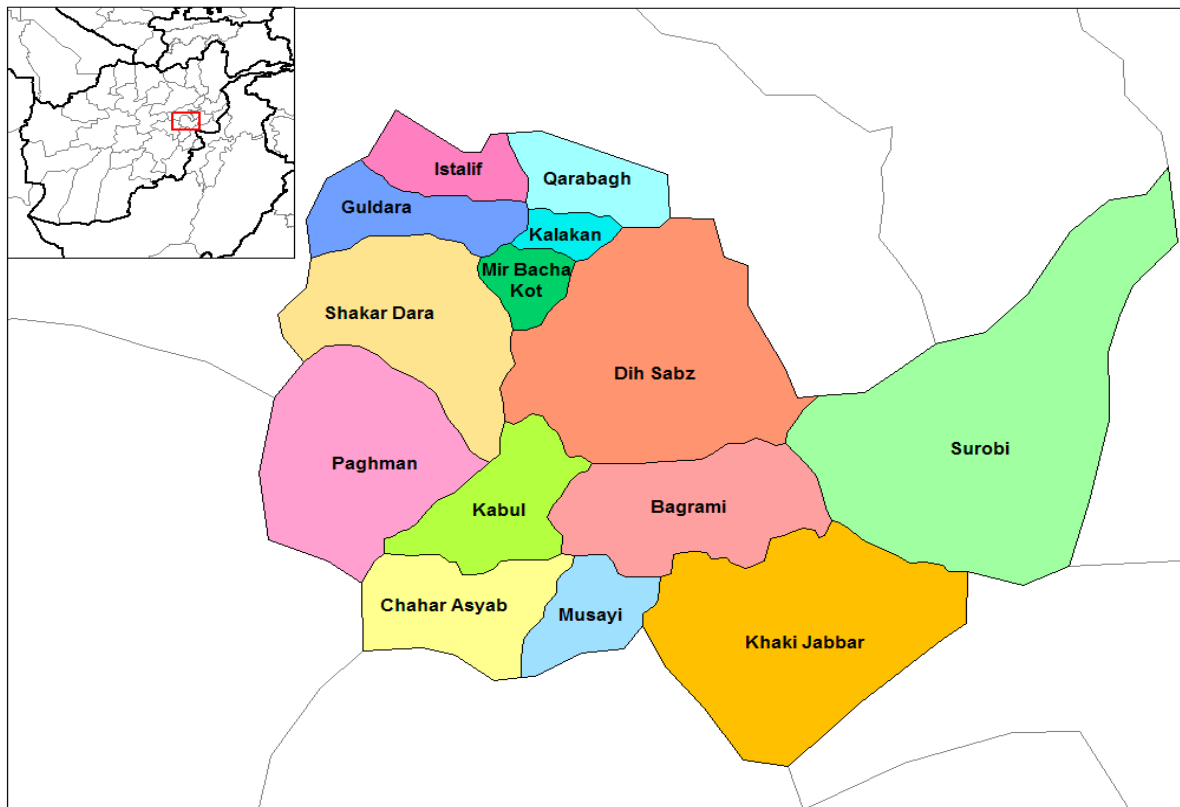
The methodology used in this thesis is both qualitative and quantitative research methods. Semi-structured questionnaires were distributed to Afghanistan's government employees who work in different ministries and farmers in order to be able to identify and interpret the problem properly.

4.2 Study Area

Surobi is one of the districts of Kabul province which is composed of 130 villages and its population is about 41,268 people. The District Administration Office of Surobi is located in Surobi center and it lies 70 km east of Kabul province, the capital city of Afghanistan. Surobi is located on 34.5897°N 69.7625°E at 998 m altitude in the valley of the Kabul River on the way to Jalalabad.

Uzbeen valley is its insecure village where the research has been conducted and opium is cultivated there. The questionnaires were distributed among the farmers who commute between the valley and the district center. [49]

Figure 4: Study area



(WIKIMEDIA. *Kabul districts image.*) [50]

Out of the 34 provinces that Afghanistan has, 15 of them are marked as poppy free and the rest have been marked as low, moderate, high and very high. Kabul has been enlisted as low opium producing province of Afghanistan and opium cultivation in Kabul is confined to Uzbeen valley of Surobi district where the security situation is not good. [51]

4.3 Tools of Data Collection

The research is composed of both qualitative and quantitative methods. For this purpose 90 questionnaires were distributed for farmers and 73 were returned. In addition, 85 questionnaires were distributed for government employees and 51 were returned.

Questionnaires were sent via e-mail to government employees who work in different ministries and majority of them were returned. Moreover, farmers were asked in person in the center of the Surobi district of Kabul province to take part in answering the questionnaires and most of them responded.

4.4 Method of Data Analysis

The collected data are primary data which have been collected through questionnaires distributed among respondents. Responses given by the government employees and farmers have been compared and indicated in charts and analyzed in MS Excel.

4.5 Limitation of the Study

Trade with opium and its impact on development aid in Afghanistan cannot completely be addressed merely with this work. This research is limited to opium production in Afghanistan in particular in Kabul province, Surobi district.

5. Result and Discussion

Totally 90 questionnaires were distributed for farmers and 73 were returned. In addition, 85 questionnaires were distributed for government employees and 51 were returned. Farmers who were asked to answer the thesis questionnaires were from Uzbeen valley of Surobi district of Kabul province who usually commute to the district center. The government employees who took part in answering the questionnaires were from different Ministries of the government of Afghanistan.

Table 1: Details of the Respondents

Respondents details	Government employees		Farmers	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Age				
Between 19 - 35	23	45.1	19	26.03
Between 36 - 55	17	33.33	39	53.42
More than 55	11	21.57	15	20.55
Total	51	100	73	100
Gender	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Male	30	58.82	73	100
Female	21	41.12		
Total	51	100	73	100

Table 1 indicates the age, number and gender of respondents. The majority of respondents age were between 19-35 and 36-55. Also out of 124 respondents, 51 of them were government employees and 73 of them farmers. Out of 51 government employees, 30 of them were male and 21 female but the farmers were all male.

5.1 Educational Background of the Respondents

The respondents were also asked to mention their educational background which has been summarized and shown in the following table below.

Table 2: Educational background of respondents

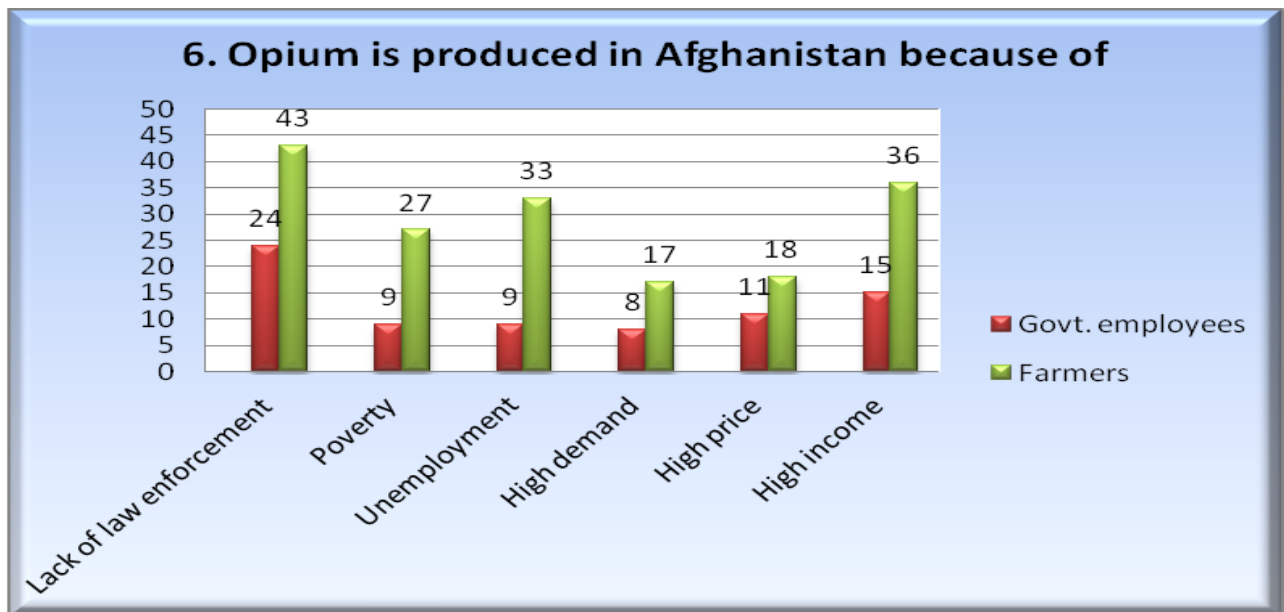
Educational Background	Government employees		Farmers	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
No school			41	56.16
Primary school			15	20.54
Secondary school			11	15.1
High school	6	11.8	6	8.2
University student	9	17.6		
University graduate	36	70.6		
Total	51	100	73	100

Table 2 indicates that the majority of the farmers 56.16 % of them do not have educational background or they are illiterate, 20.54 % of them have basic school educational background, 15.1 % of them have secondary school educational background and 8.2 % of them have high school educational background. Moreover, table 2 also indicates that 11.8 % of the government employees have high school educational background, 17.8 % are university students and 70.6 % of them are university graduates.

Primary school in Afghanistan starts from 1st to 6th grade of school, secondary school 7th to 9th grade and high school from 10th to 12th grade. Afghanistan's universities mostly offer bachelor programs and it takes four years to achieve a bachelor degree except Polytechnic, Veterinary and Pharmacy which take five years and medicine seven years. Masters degree is offered after two years of study but only few Universities offer in few fields of study and Ph.D. is still not offered.

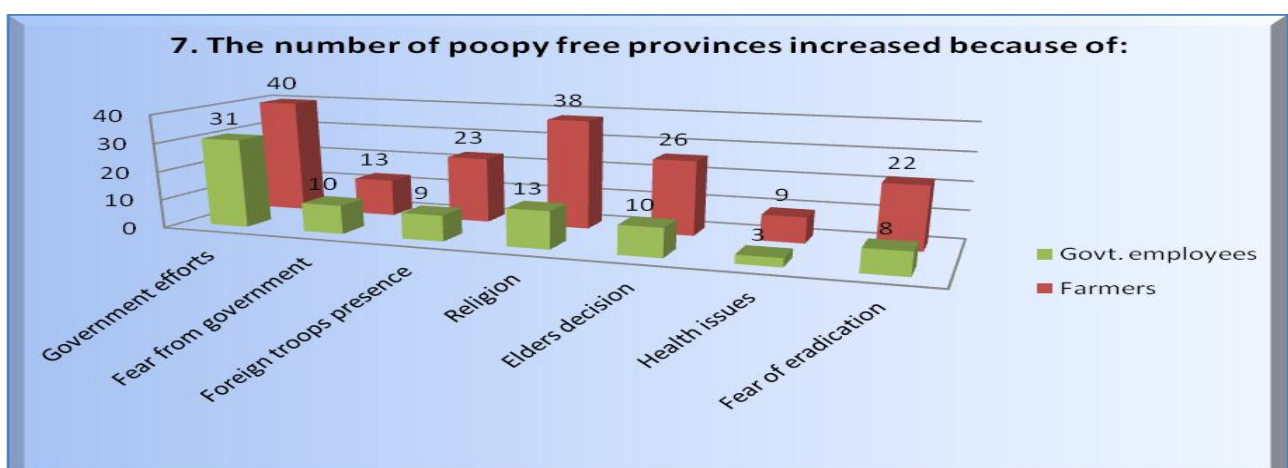
The government employees as well as the farmers were asked a general question in order to know their knowledge in regards with the production of maximum amount of world's illicit opium. Out of 51 government employees 48 (94.1%) of them said yes and 3 (5.9%) of them said no. Also out of 73 farmers 42 (57.5 %) of them said that Afghanistan produces the world's maximum amount of opium, 10 (13.7%) of them said no and 21 (28.8%) of them did not know anything about it.

Figure 5: Reasons of opium production (Govt. Employees and farmers)



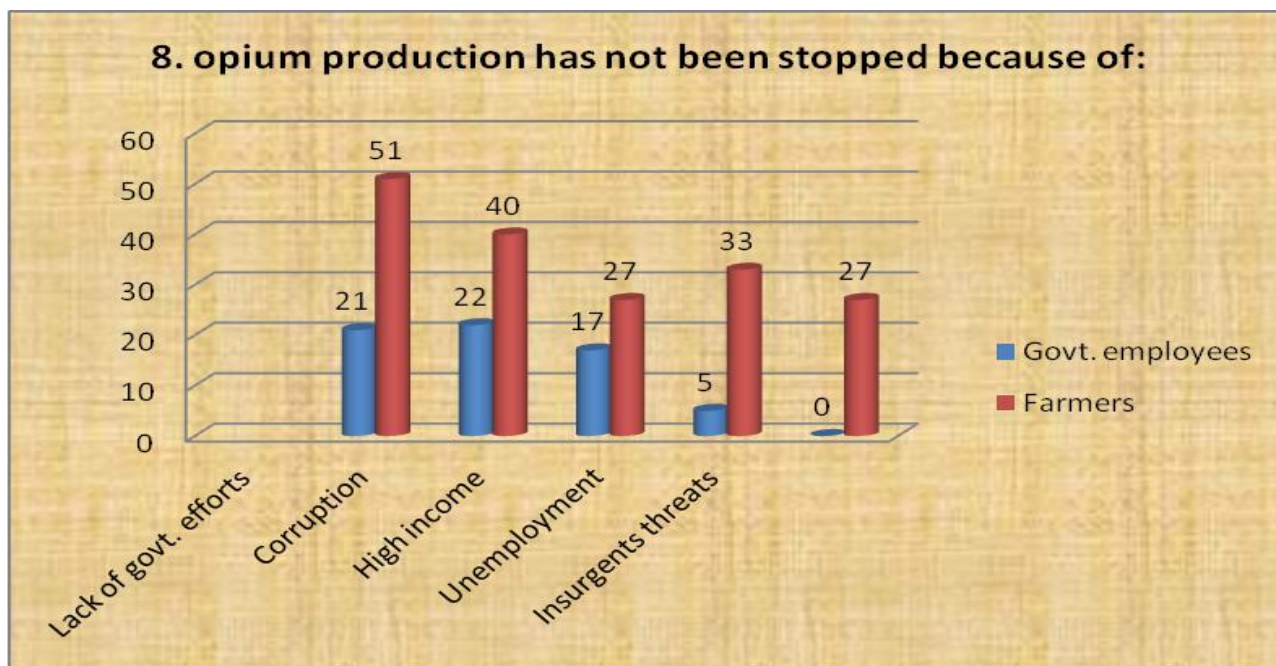
When the respondents were asked about the reasons of opium production in Afghanistan. The reasons which were mentioned were mostly lack of law enforcement, poverty, unemployment, high demand, high price and high income but the majority of both the government employees and farmers respondents believed that opium is produced in Afghanistan because of lack of law enforcement and high income.

Figure 6: Poppy free provinces increase (Govt. Employees and farmers)



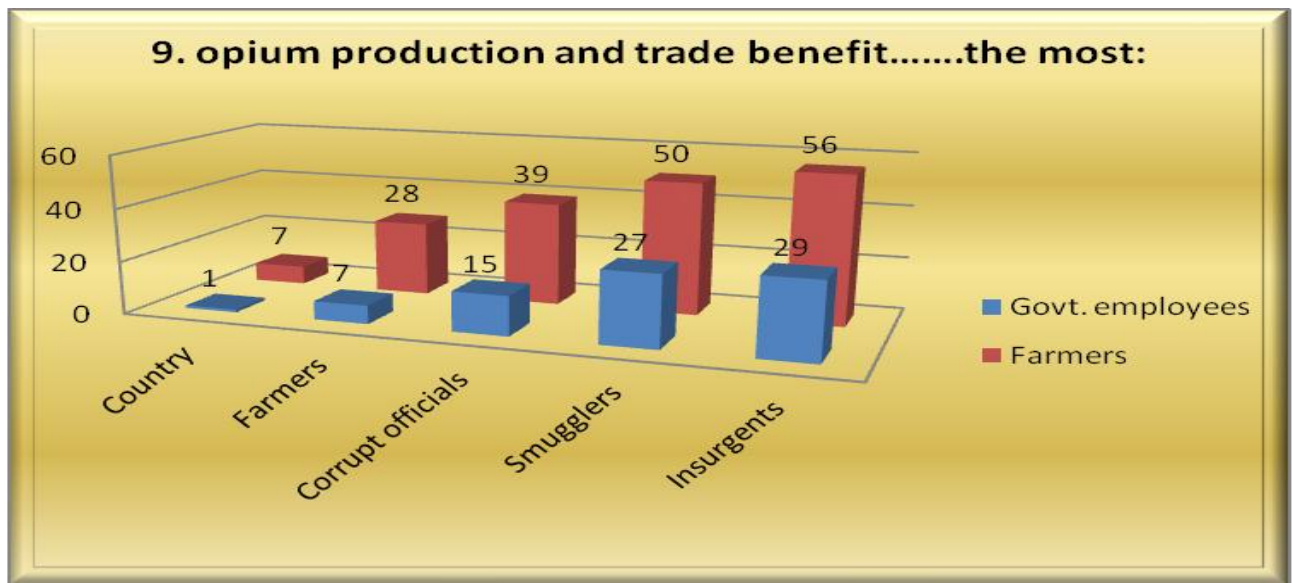
Similarly the respondents were asked, how some of the country’s provinces have been marked as poppy free provinces they mentioned of government efforts, fear from government, foreign troops presence, religion, elders decision, health issues and fear of eradiction. The majority of the government employees believed that, it was because of the government efforts but the majority of farmers believed that it was because of the government efforts and religion.

Figure 7: Opium production not stopped (Govt. employees and Farmers)



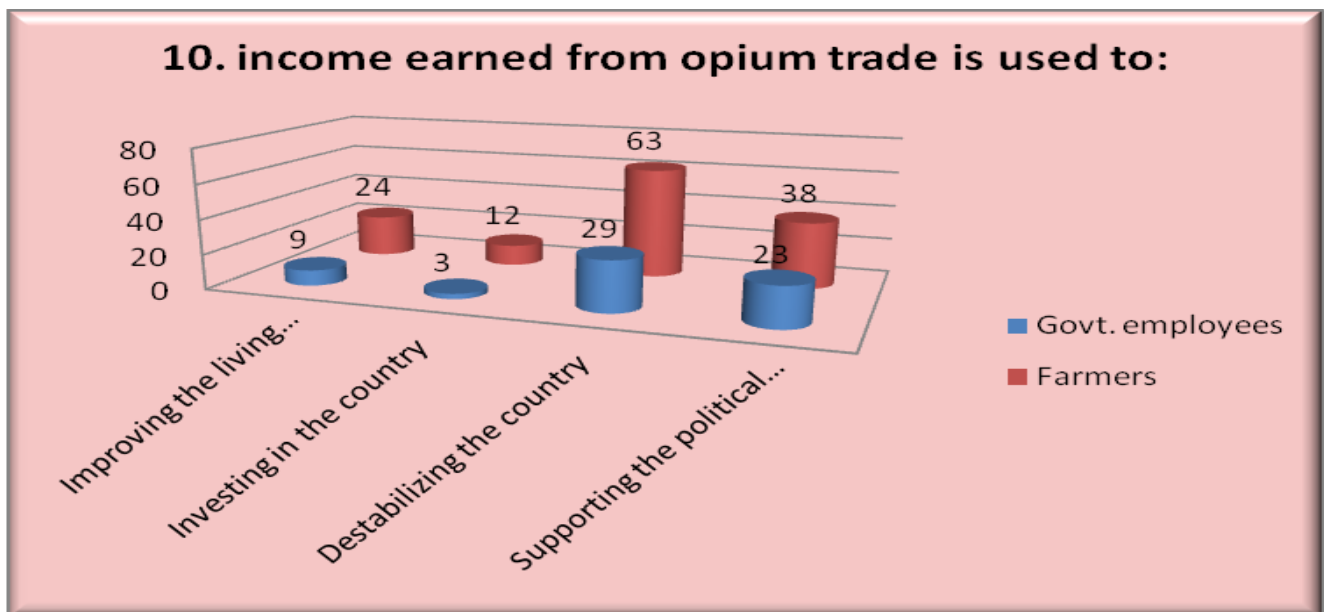
When the famers were asked why they have not stopped cultivating poppy or production of opium most of them believed that they cultivate poppy because of lack of government efforts, corruption as well as insurgents threats. They also blamed the government for not providing them the ground of working in the country. The government employees admitted that, opium production has not been stopped because of lack of government efforts and corruption but they did not mention anything about the insurgents threats.

Figure 8: Opium production benefit (Govt. Employees and farmers)



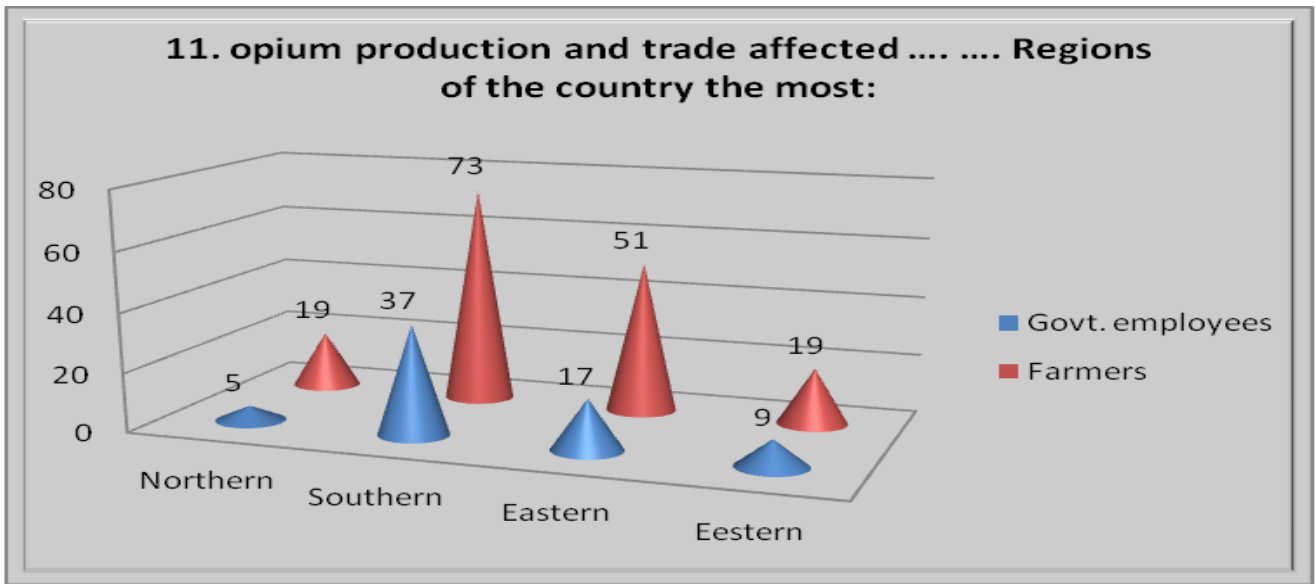
When the Author tried to ask both the government employees and famers about the opium production benefit, to know who benefit the most from opium production and trade, the majority of all respondents believed that, it was the insurgents and smugglers who benefit the most and a very small portion of that amount is given to the farmers compare to what they cultivate or produce.

Figure 9: Opium income earned (Govt. Employees and farmers)



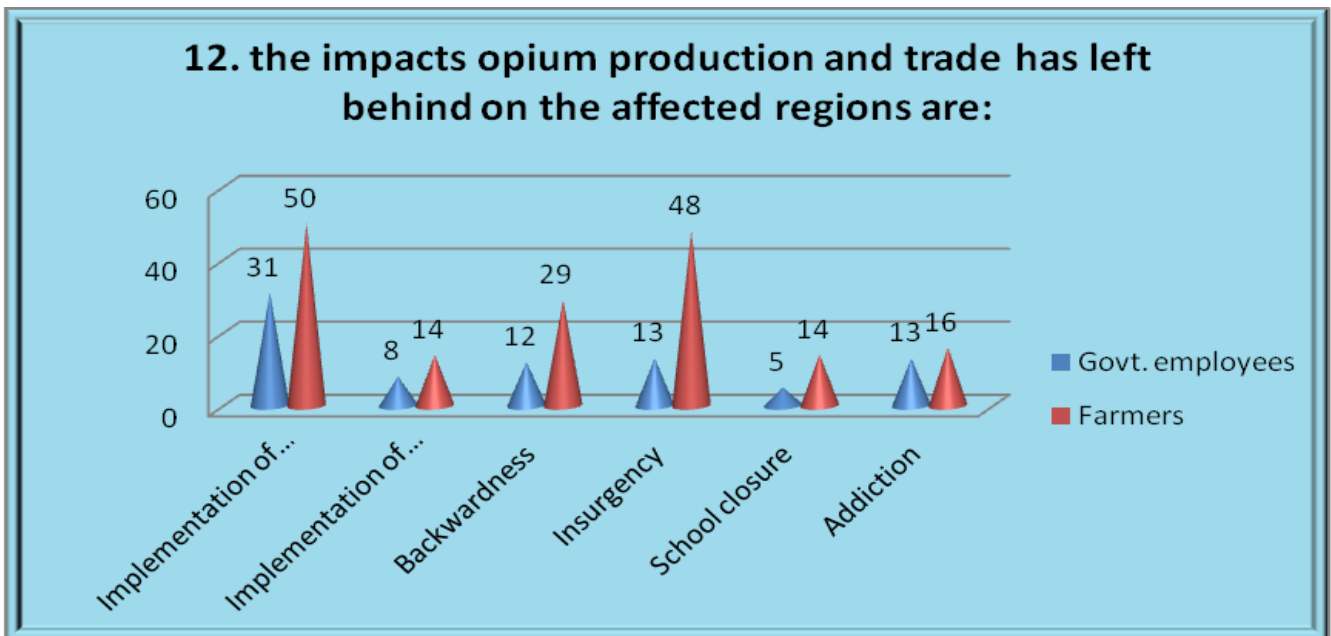
The respondents were also asked about the income earned from opium trade and if it is used to improving people’s living condition, investing in the country, destabilizing the country and supporting the political opposition, the majority of them believed that opium trade income is used by insurgents and political oppositions to destabilize the country and to be able to take part in the country’s politics

Figure 10: Opium production affected regions (Govt. Employees and farmers)



As it has been mentioned above, that Afghanistan produces the maximum amount of world’s illicit opium therefore; the respondents believed that poppy is cultivated all over the country. But, the majority of them both from government employees and farmers told the Author that the southern and eastern regions of the country are the most affected regions in Afghanistan.

Figure 11: Opium production impacts (Govt. Employees and farmers)



Despite the many impacts that, the opium production and trade has left behind on the affected regions (southern and eastern) and all of them have been shown in the above graphs, the very effective impacts are implementation of less development projects and insurgency. Insurgency is the one which has caused many other problems in those regions not to develop.

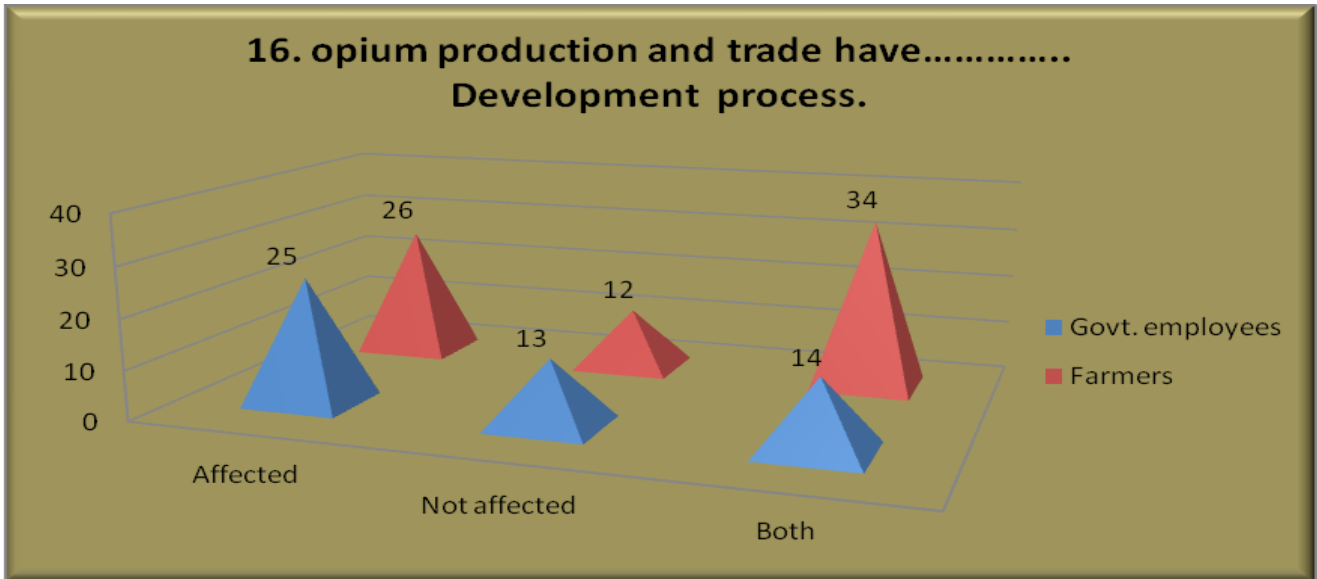
To know the economic knowledge of the respondents in particular about development aid the Author asked them about the dependency of Afghanistan's economy on development aid. Out of 51 government employees 46 (90.2 %) of them said yes that Afghanistan's economy is dependent on development aid and 5 (9.8%) of them said no. Those who said yes they also mentioned how? They believed that Afghanistan's commerce does not match the international standards, three decades of war has destroyed Afghanistan's infrastructures, insurgency has made the government not to be able to build the country etc ; therefore; the country's economy is dependent on development aid. Those who mentioned no their reasons were that Afghanistan economy is an agricultural based economy. Similarly out of 73 farmers 58 (79.5 %) said yes and their reasons were foreigners presence in Afghanistan, war, usage of foreign products etc.They also mentioned that, if Afghanistan had independent economy none of these mentioned phenomenons would exist, farmers would not cultivate poppy, a lot of people would not be jobless and there would be no war in the country. Also 15 (20.5%) of the farmers said no and their reasons were that they have not received any aid and they did not really know what development aid was.

Also the Author wanted to find out if development aid has had a significant role on opium eradication. Out of 51 government employees 28 (54.9%) said yes and the reason behind their answers were the increase in the number of poppy free province. Also 23 (45.1%) of the respondents said no and their reasons for saying no was, that Afghanistan still produces the huge amount of world's illicit opium. Also out of 73 farmers 41 (56.2%) believed that development aid has helped the government of Afghanistan to be able to eradicate opium in a number of provinces but 26 (35.6) believed that development aid has not been effective on opium production and 6 (8.2%) did not know anything about development aid.

Also the respondents were asked if the development aid has helped the government to improve people's living condition in the country or country side. 41 (80.4 %) of 51 government employees believed that it has helped and 10 (19.6%) of them believed that it has not. Out of 73 farmers 52 (71.2%) of them said yes and 21 (28.8%) of them said no. Both the government employees and farmers who gave positive answer to the question were saying that the living condition of most of the people has improved since 2001 but, in contrary to that, those who said no, were telling that the

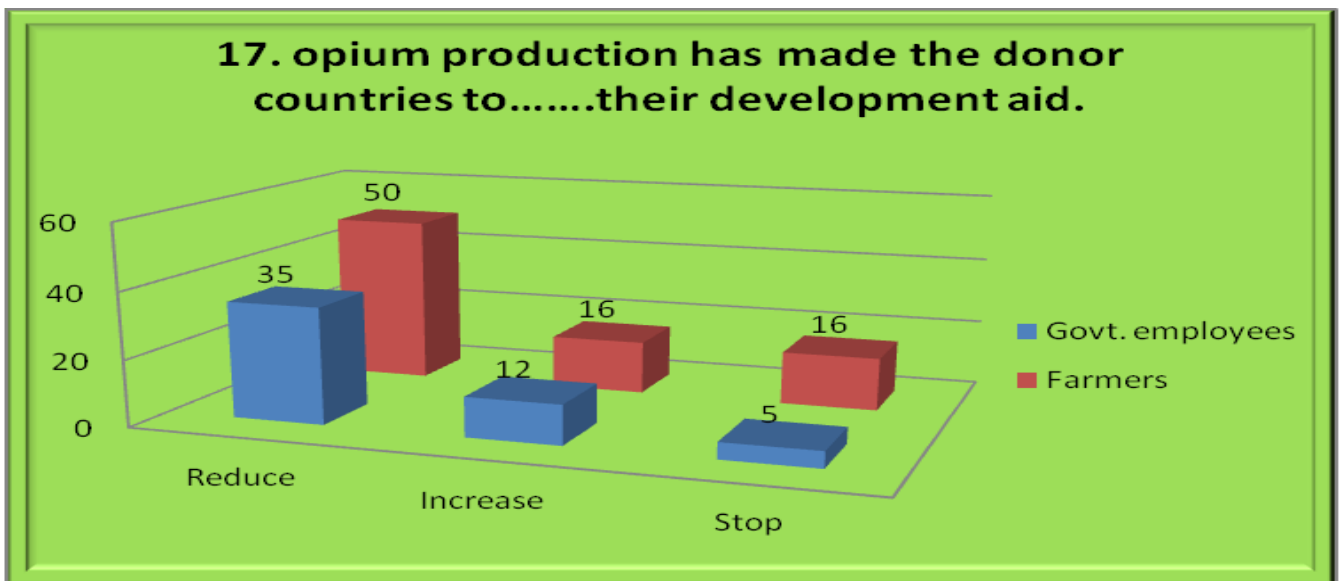
development aid has not improved the living condition of most of the people but some of the people and in particular those who work as high rank government officials, their relatives and friends.

Figure 12: Opium production affects development process (Govt. employees and farmers)



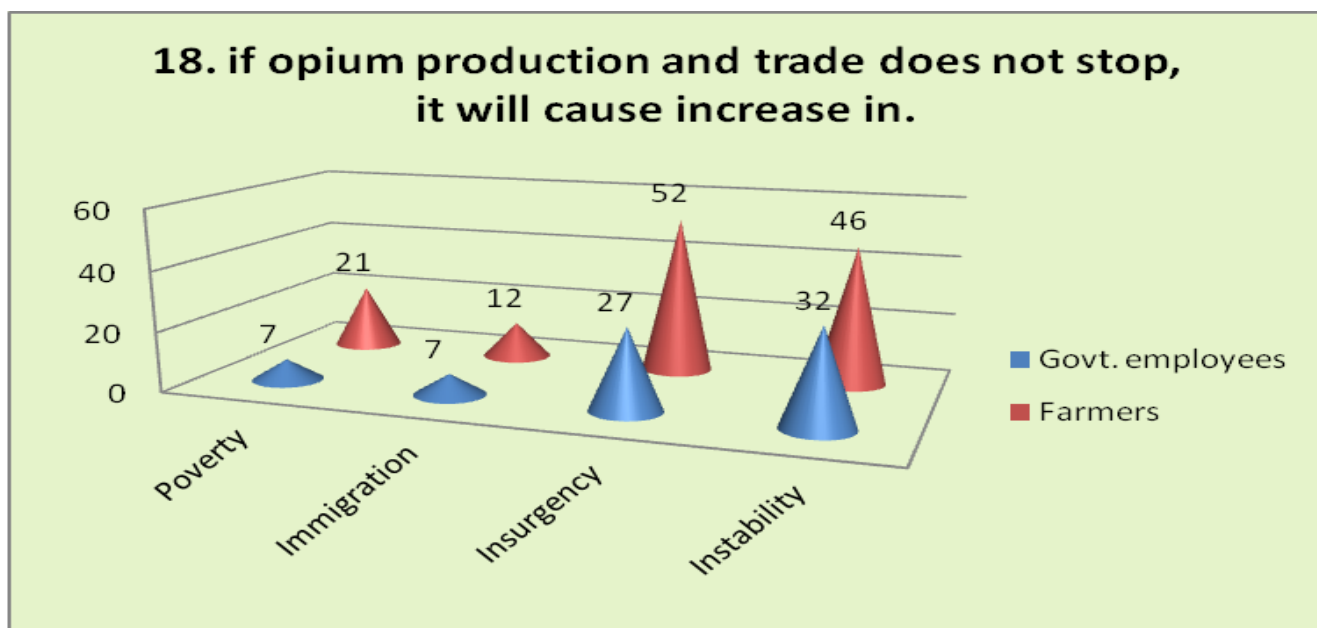
Out of 51 responses of government employees 24 (47%) of them in the above graph indicate that opium production and trade has affected the development process which has caused instability in the country and stopped the donor countries to realize their development projects in the regions. In contrary to that, out of 73 responses of farmers 35 (48%) of them in the above graph indicates that it has affected and not affected (both). They believed that, in some parts of the country it has affected the development process and in some parts not.

Figure 13: Opium production and development aid (Govt. Employees and farmers)



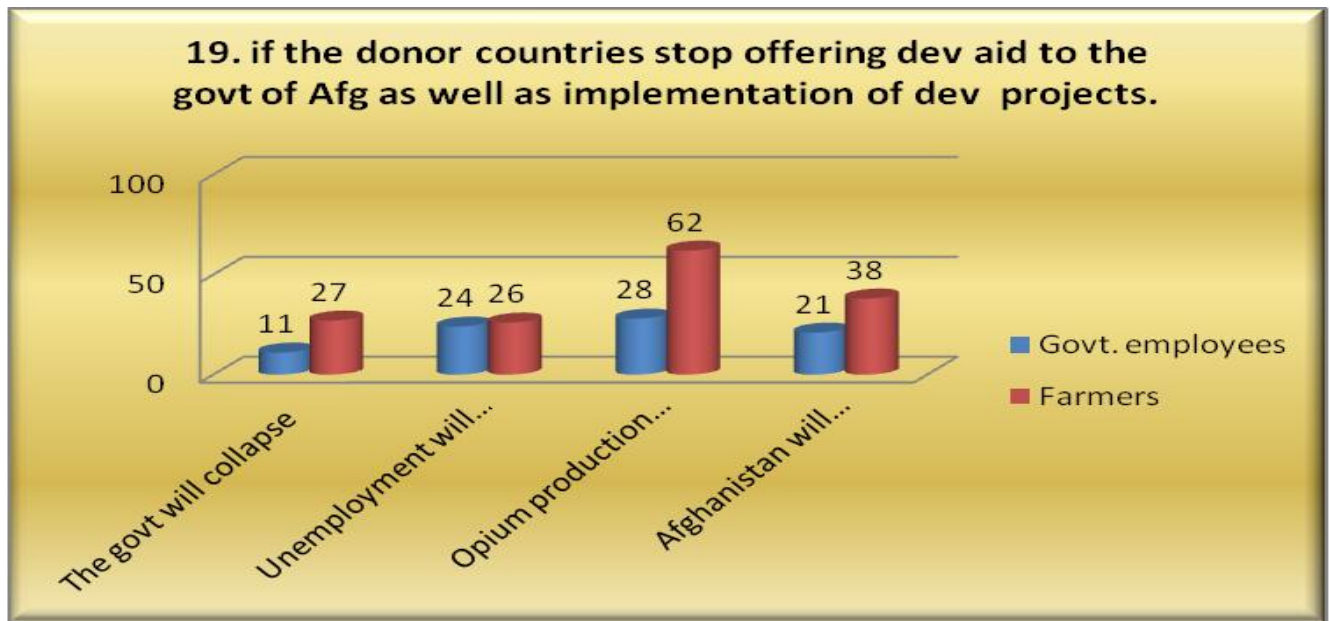
Out of the 52 government employees responses, 35 (67.3%) of the responses indicate that opium production has made the donor countries reduce their development aid, 12 (23.1%) indicate that opium production has increased their development aid and 5 (9.6%) indicate that it has stopped their development aid. Similarly out of 82 responses of farmers 50 (60.9%) of the responses indicate that opium production has made the donor countries reduce their development aid, 16 (19.6%) indicate that it has increased development aid and 16 (19.6%) indicate that it has stopped development aid.

Figure 14: Impacts of opium production continuation (Govt. Employees and farmers)



Most of the respondents believed that opium production and trade is one of the sources which finance the war in the Afghanistan. Therefore; the majority of them mentioned that, if opium production and trade does not stop it will cause increase in insurgency and instability. Out of the 73 government employees responses, 27 (37%) indicate that insurgency will increase and 32 (43.8%) indicate that instability will increase, 7 (9.6 %) indicate that poverty will increase and similarly 7 (9.6%) indicate that immigration will increase. Also out of the 131 responses of the farmers, 52 (39.7%) indicate that insurgency will increase, 46 (35.1 %) indicate that instability will increase, 21 (16%) indicate that poverty will increase and 12 (9.2%) indicate that immigration will increase.

Figure 15: Importance of development aid (Govt. Employees and farmers)



Out of the 84 responses collected from 51 government employees in regards with the last question, if donor countries stop offering development aid to the government of Afghanistan what will happen? 28 responses (33.3%) indicate that opium production and trade will increase, 24 (28.6%) indicate that unemployment will increase, 21(25%) shows that Afghanistan will become a serious threat to the world and 11 (13.1%) shows that the government will collapse.

Also out of 153 responses collected from the farmers, 62 (40.5%) of them indicate that opium production will increase, 38 (24.8%) of indicate that Afghanistan will become a serious threat to the world, 27 (17.7%) indicate that the government will collapse and 26 (17%) indicate that unemployment will increase.

5.2 Discussion

Opium cultivation has existed for centuries in Afghanistan but trade with opium that has affected both the country and the world started since 1980s. Opium production and trade has badly affected Afghanistan to the maximum level. Since, opium production and trade has already been analyzed and interpreted therefore; it is only discussed here.

According to the findings of the thesis, opium is produced and traded in Afghanistan because of many reasons. Of the 124 people who took part in answering the questionnaires, 51 were government employees and 73 farmers. All government employees had higher educational background but, 56.1 % of farmers were illiterate and the rest of them had primary and secondary school educational background and very few of them high school.

Farmers cultivate opium because of lack of law enforcement, unemployment, high income and many other reasons and they blame the government for not doing enough to help them stop opium production. Mostly opium is cultivated in regions where the security situation is poor. Farmers are either threatened to cultivate opium or they cultivate themselves in order to help their families.

Income which is earned from opium production and trade is pocketed by insurgents who have control over the areas where opium is produced, politicians who represent opium producing provinces and their partners and farmers but, farmers are the ones who get the least advantage from opium production.

Since, the opium trade amount reach to two billion USD within Afghanistan Iran and Afghanistan Pakistan borders, therefore; it helps insurgents to destabilize the country and politicians to take part in politics and become influential personalities.

Afghanistan shares border with Pakistan to the south and east, and it always accuses Pakistan of intervening in its internal affairs and therefore; these two regions of the country are more insecure compare to the north and west. The government of Afghanistan does not have the ability to control its borders with Pakistan and the insurgents can cross the border easily, disrupt the security, threaten the farmers to cultivate opium, traffick the drugs and so on, therefore; the government cannot secure the country and reduce the level opium production.

Similarly the majority of the respondents also mentioned that opium production and trade mostly affected the southern and eastern regions of the country and made the government, International organizations, Non-governmental organization and others not to be able to work in those regions.

The impacts opium production and trade has left behind on development aid in Afghanistan in particular, in southern and eastern regions are, to increase the level of insecurity, addiction, backwardness etc, and to reduce the level of realization of development projects.

As Ms Angelika Schückler the in charge of FAO Agricultural Management, Marketing and Finance Service in regards with poppy or opium production in Afghanistan also says that, *"We do not have the 'super crop' at hand to convince farmers to give up poppy production immediately,"*

"Rural poverty and the lack of income are the main reasons why farmers produce opium,"

"Farmers need inputs for orchards, forestry, irrigation and livestock, as well as access to credit and training. Infrastructure, health and education services need to be restored,"

"Only if poppy production is seriously cut back through strong law enforcement and if the overall production environment improves significantly, will farmers finally switch to alternative crops," (Schückler 2004)

Similarly, the government of Afghanistan also does not have the ability to help farmers to stop opium production. When the respondents were asked about dependency of economy of Afghanistan, the majority of them believed that Afghanistan does not have a standard and stable economy and therefore; the international community came to help the country. As Ms Schückler also mentioned about rural poverty, lack of income, lack of law enforcement, lack of credit, training, infrastructure, education and so on, most of the respondents especially farmers also complained of not having access to these facilities.

56.1 % of the farmers were illiterate, they had no source of income other than opium production, no financial institution offer them credit, no training, and they were unemployed and so on. Also development aid plays a very significant role in Afghanistan. Afghanistan, economically depends on development aid and development aid is as important as its survival. According to the findings if it is not provided by the international community, Afghanistan may face a lot of difficulties that it itself will not be able to sort them out.

It is believed that, development aid has helped not only the government of Afghanistan but its people as well. The majority of the respondents mentioned that, it has improved people's living condition in the country as well but few of them were not agreed with that point of view since, they believed that development aid has only helped the corrupt officials, their relatives and friends and those who are involved in trafficking.

Though, there were some controversies about the effectiveness of development aid among the respondents but, disbursement of development aid has been very effective in Afghanistan. Though, it has not sorted out all the problems, it has not helped the government to reduce opium production and trade, insecurity and so on but, still it has brought a tremendous change in the country's structure. It has helped the government to build institutions, to be able to offer services, to be able to build industrial parks to attract domestic and foreign investors and investment and so on.

Since, Afghanistan economically has not become a self-sustaining country therefore; the majority of the respondents believed that, if development aid is not offered to the government of Afghanistan, it will cause a lot of problems. They believed that, it will cause to collapse the government, increase unemployment, increase opium production and trade and turn Afghanistan to become a serious threat to the world.

Though development aid has not helped the government to reduce opium production and trade to the minimum level still, the country could increase the number of poppy free provinces in particular in the north and west to 15 and if it is continued to be offered, the number of poppy free provinces, the level of opium production and trade might reduce.

6. Conclusion

Afghanistan is very rich in terms of having natural resources but, in fact it is one of the poorest third world countries in the world whose economy is dependent on development aid. The literacy rate is low and the majority of people especially farmers who live in rural and remote areas are either illiterate or the level of their education is not as good as it should be.

Throughout its history, the country has experienced invasions, war and injustice. All these phenomenon made the country stay backward. The heads of the country and their teams have always tried to prefer one to another and think of their personal interest rather than the country. Foreign interventions are considered to be another main reason for backwardness of the country. It has influenced the country's politics, economy, culture and almost everything.

Since the government of Afghanistan is weak, therefore; it has not been able to sort all its internal problems out. War and insecurity have increased and the government has not been able to control the situation. As war and insecurity increase, disorder, corruption, unemployment and poverty also increase. The insurgents take control of some regions and make the farmers to cultivate opium. Despite the fact that the farmers are threatened to cultivate opium, due to lack of jobs, lack of access to legal sources of income and so on, they themselves also cultivate. It has turned to become their source of income.

Opium has been cultivated in Afghanistan for centuries but its trade started since 1980s. It was moved from Pakistan to southern provinces of Afghanistan by those who were fighting against the USSR invasion of Afghanistan. From then onwards, it has partly financed the war in the country and Afghanistan's governments have not been able to have an overall control over the country.

Since October 2001, development aid has played a very significant role in Afghanistan. The US and some of its western allies attacked Afghanistan to hunt Bin Laden and help the government of Afghanistan to be able to enforce law and order in the country. From then onwards, they have held many international conferences in different countries in the world in order to evaluate the situation of Afghanistan as well as to commit more support to the government of Afghanistan.

The international community helped people of Afghanistan to establish their government as well as hold elections. During these international conferences they pledged to provide 62 billion USD aid to the government of Afghanistan from 2002 to 2013 of which 26.7 billion USD has been disbursed by

2009. This amount is used to build institutions, to enforce law and order, to help military forces to increase, to build infrastructures, for economic growth, counter narcotics and so on.

The government and international community have been somehow successful in rebuilding of Afghanistan but, to compare what has been spent and what has been built is not possible. Because of the flow of the international community aid to the government of Afghanistan the number of corrupt officials in the government of Afghanistan and international community teams have increased as well and Afghanistan has been enlisted as third most corrupt country in the world after Somali and Myanmar.

Billions of USD has been spent in Afghanistan to secure the country, to create jobs, to improve living condition, to eradicate opium production and trade and so on, still Afghanistan produces more than ninety percent of world's illicit opium.

The government has established three counter narcotic institutions such as; Ministry of Counter Narcotics (MCN), Department of Counter Narcotics of National Directorate Security of Afghanistan and Deputy Minister Counter Narcotics of Interior Ministry. None of them have been effective and out of 34 provinces of Afghanistan only 15 of them are considered to be poppy free and the rest not.

All these issues have become the reason that the development aid would not be very effective and opium production increase. The majority of the respondents also mention that lack of law enforcement, poverty, unemployment, high demand, high price, lack of government efforts, insurgent threats and corruption has been the reason for the rise of opium production and trade in the country.

Farmers cultivate opium because they are either made to do so, or they have no choice other than that. But it is the influential leaders in those regions, smugglers, corrupt officials and insurgents who take the most advantages of opium production. The money or income which is gained from opium production is not used to invest in the country or improve the majority of people's living condition but it is used to support some of the political opposition parties' members and to destabilize the country.

Unfortunately, opium production has affected all regions of the country but it is mostly produced in southern and western regions. When it comes to its trade, it is traded from all sides of the country. Opium which is exported to Europe and America and other parts of the world pass through

Afghanistan-Iran and Afghanistan-Pakistan borders or from Afghanistan's southern, eastern and western borders and opium which is exported to Russia, pass through Afghanistan's northern borders.

Opium production has affected the development process. The donor countries and the government are not able to realize development projects in southern and eastern provinces of Afghanistan. Since, those regions are very important for insurgents they always try to disrupt the security so that, they will be able to have control over there and to be able to maintain their sources of income.

Though the majority of respondents believe that, opium production has made the donor countries to reduce their development aid to the government of Afghanistan, still it has been very helpful and if not paid it will create more problems.

Since the goal of this thesis was to find out the context of opium production, how it is traded and impacts of its trade on economic development and development aid in Afghanistan, why opium production has increased, the barriers which made the government of Afghanistan fail to eradicate opium production and trade, to explore the role of development aid in reducing the opium cultivation, production and trade and to analyze the impacts of opium trade on development aid that Afghanistan receives, it has been achieved and explained. But still, opium production has not been stopped and to stop, eradicate or reduce opium production the Author would like to give some recommendations.

7. Recommendation

As a result of day and night efforts of government of Afghanistan as well as international community, Afghanistan has developed a lot since 2001. But, development within this period does not mean that, all problems of Afghanistan have been resolved. Still there are problems that can cause changes in the country and lead it towards war and instability again. To mention some of these problems, one can say that, when a country is economically weak and not self sustaining, politically not stable, dependent on international community assistance, corrupt and having high illiteracy rate, discrimination and so on; it is hard to expect everything to be perfect.

To resolve all these problems that Afghanistan is currently faced to, in particular the problems with opium trade and production and its impacts on economic development and development aid, some recommendations are required to be given and if they are applied, they will help Afghanistan to be able to eradicate or at least reduce opium trade and opium production, provide the ground for receiving development aid effectively and implement the development projects efficiently.

- Islam is the religion of the majority of people of Afghanistan, people of Afghanistan are very religious and narcotics are banned in Islam, if the government decides to eradicate opium production in Afghanistan, it can use many ways to do so. Public awareness can be used as a very significant tool for eradicating not only opium but all types of opiate in the country. The government can ask Islamic scholars to give awareness for people about opium production and other drugs in the Mosques.
- Teachers can play a very tremendous role in eradicating opium production by lecturing about its impacts at schools and universities as well as printing some scripts in regards with the opium production, its disadvantages and distributing them among the students etc.
- Media can help the government to eradicate opium production by organizing some programs or debates in which they invite Islamic scholars, Teachers, experts etc; to let people know not to produce opium anymore.
- High Office of Oversight and Anti-corruption should be respected and supported by government. Those who are accused of being corrupt by this institution, must be prosecuted.

- The government of Afghanistan and international community should empower the military forces of Afghanistan, teach them unbiasedness in order to be able to serve the country, arrest the insurgents and those who disobey law and hand them to judiciary institutions.
- Judiciary institutions should be improved.
- Currently there are three counter narcotics institutions in Afghanistan operating within different ministries and they are; Ministry of Counter Narcotics (MCN), Deputy Minister Counter Narcotics of MOI and department of counter narcotics of NDS which are not effective. It is recommended to support the MCN to tackle all the problems with narcotics issues in Afghanistan and these two other (MOI and NDS) institutions pay more attention for improvement of security situation in the country.
- To eradicate opium production and trade, Afghanistan should build good relation with Pakistan and ask Pakistanis to stop supporting Taliban but that will not happen unless the international community in particular USA help Afghanistan and bring pressure on Pakistan to do so.
- To make development aid to be used more effective the donor countries should channel at least half the development and financial aid through the core budget of the government of Afghanistan, and in return, ask the government for transparency. It will also reduce corruption.
- Along side the war against Taliban and Terrorists, the international community should make investment in Afghanistan to improve education system, tourism sector, agriculture sector, to build infrastructures, create jobs, offer alternative crops for farmers, and so on; people will be encouraged to forget about Taliban and war and start doing business, going to school and so on.
- Since Afghanistan is not a stable, its neighbouring countries can help Afghanistan to reduce opium production and trade. If Afghanistan cannot control its borders its neighbouring countries such as Iran, Pakistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and China have the capability to control their borders with Afghanistan. And when they do so, opium trafficking will reduce and when opium trafficking reduce, the income gained from opium will reduce and when the income reduce the cultivation will reduce.

Once these things are done and the government of Afghanistan becomes economically strong, then it will be able to repay its debts and provide a good living condition for its people and then, not only people of Afghanistan but most of the people around the world will enjoy living a great life far from narcotics.

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9. Questionnaire

Dear Sir/Madam

I am a student of International Economic Development in the Czech University of Life Sciences. I am currently conducting a research on the *Trade with Opium and its Impacts on Development Aid in Afghanistan*. This questionnaire is prepared to see what impacts opium trade has had on development aid in Afghanistan. Therefore; your honest answers for these questions are very important to realize the objective. Thank you in advance for taking your time to fill in this questionnaire.

Kind regards,

Edrees Fayez

It is possible to choose more than one answer.

1. Age
 - a. Under 18
 - b. Between 19 and 35
 - c. Between 36 and 55
 - d. More than 55
2. Gender
 - a. male
 - b. female
3. Your educational background
 - a. high school graduate
 - b. university student
 - c. university graduate
 - d. If you have different educational background, please add it here:
4. Occupation

- a. student
 - b. farmer
 - c. government employee
 - d. other, please add it here:
5. Afghanistan produces the maximum amount of world illicit opium.
- a. Yes
 - b. No
6. Opium is produced in Afghanistan because of:
- a. lack of law enforcement
 - b. poverty
 - c. unemployment
 - d. high demand
 - e. high price
 - f. high income
 - g. other, please add it here:
7. The number of poppy free provinces increased because of:
- a. government efforts
 - b. fear from government
 - c. foreign troops presence
 - d. religion
 - e. elders decision
 - f. health issues
 - g. fear of eradication
 - h. other, please add it here:
8. Opium production has not been stopped because of:
- a. lack of government efforts
 - b. corruption

- c. high income
 - d. unemployment
 - e. other, please add it here:
9. Opium production and trade benefit the most:
- a. country
 - b. farmers
 - c. corrupt officials
 - d. smugglers
 - e. insurgents
 - f. other, please add it here:
10. Income earned from opium trade, is used to:
- a. Improving the living condition
 - b. investing in the country
 - c. destabilizing the country
 - d. supporting political opposition
 - e. other, please add it here:
11. Opium production and trade affected.....regions of the country the most:
- a. northern
 - b. southern
 - c. eastern
 - d. western
 - e. None/other:
12. The impacts opium production and trade has left behind on the affected regions are:
- a. implementation of less development projects
 - b. implementation of no development projects
 - c. backwardness
 - d. insurgency

- e. schools closure
 - f. other, please add it here:
13. Afghanistan's economy is mostly dependent on development aid.
- a. Yes, how?
 - b. No, Why?
 - c. other, please add it here:
14. Development aid has also had a very significant role on opium eradication.
- a. Yes
 - b. No
 - c. Other:
15. The flow of development aid has helped the government of Afghanistan to improve living condition as well as develop the country.
- a. Yes
 - b. No
 - c. other, please add it here:
16. Opium production and trade havedevelopment process.
- a. affected
 - b. not affected
 - c. both
 - d. other, please add it here:
17. Opium production has made the donor countries to..... their development aid.
- a. reduce
 - b. increase
 - c. stop
 - d. other, please add it here:

18. If opium production and trade does not stop, it will cause increase in.

- a. poverty
- b. immigration
- c. insurgency
- d. instability
- e. other: please add it here:

19. If the donor countries stop offering development aid to the government of Afghanistan as well as implementation of the development projects:

- a. The government will collapse
- b. unemployment will increase
- c. opium production and trade will increase
- d. Afghanistan will become a serious threat to the world
- e. other, please add it here: