

Characteristics of Drug Crimes in the Network Age and Its Countermeasures

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Abstract: The purpose of this paper is to deeply discuss the characteristics, influence and coping strategies of drug crimes in the network age. Firstly, this paper analyzes the new characteristics of network drug crime in concealment, intelligence and cross-border, and the severe challenges these characteristics bring to social security, public health and international governance. Then, from the legislative, law enforcement, social and technical aspects, this paper puts forward the coping strategies and evaluates the effectiveness of these strategies in practice. At present, the perfection and innovation of legislation provides a legal basis for cracking down on crime, but the law enforcement needs to be strengthened; International cooperation and information sharing at the law enforcement level have improved the efficiency of the crackdown, but the cooperation mechanism needs to be improved; Prevention and education at the social level have enhanced public awareness of prevention, but it needs to be further expanded in depth and breadth; Technical innovation and supervision provide technical support for crime prevention, but technical means still need to be constantly updated and upgraded. This paper holds that in order to effectively deal with drug crimes in the internet age, it is necessary to further strengthen international cooperation, improve laws and regulations, improve law enforcement efficiency, strengthen social publicity and education guidance, and promote technological innovation and regulatory upgrading.

1. Introduction

With the popularity of the Internet and the rapid development of technology, cyberspace has become an important part of people's daily life [1]. However, this progress has also provided new channels and means for criminal activities, especially drug crimes [2]. Drug crimes not only endanger personal health and family happiness, but also seriously affect social stability and national security [3]. Therefore, it is of great significance to explore the characteristics of drug crimes and their countermeasures in the network era for cracking down on drug crimes, maintaining social order and ensuring people's well-being [4].

In the internet age, drug crimes have shown many new characteristics. On the one hand, criminals use the anonymity and cross-regional characteristics of the Internet to carry out activities such as drug propaganda, sales and trading, making drug crimes more hidden and difficult to crack down on [5]. On the other hand, the types and quantities of online drugs are also increasing, which brings greater challenges to drug control [6]. In addition, online drug crimes are often intertwined

with other types of crimes, forming a complex criminal network, further increasing the difficulty of cracking down [7]. The purpose of this study is to deeply analyze the characteristics, causes and effects of drug crimes in the network age, explore effective coping strategies, and provide decision-making reference and practical guidance for the government and relevant departments.

2. Overview of drug crimes in the internet age

Drug crimes usually refer to a series of violations of national laws and regulations involving illegal production, trafficking, transportation, possession and use of drugs [8]. These acts not only violate the national drug control policy, but also seriously endanger social public safety and people's physical and mental health. According to the behavior and characteristics of drug crimes, they can be divided into the following types (Table 1).

Table 1: Types of drug crimes

Types of drug crimes	Definition	Characteristic
Trafficking transportation manufacturing drug charges	Violation of national drug control laws and regulations, cross-border smuggling, illegal trafficking, transportation and manufacturing of drugs.	Involving a large number of drug transactions and cross-border criminal networks is one of the main forms of drug crimes.
Crime of carrying drugs illegally	Individuals or groups illegally hold a certain amount of drugs for their own use or provide them to others.	An important means to combat personal drug consumption and small-scale drug trade involves the illegal possession and use of drugs.
Crime of harboring drug criminals	Knowing that others are engaged in drug-related criminal activities, providing them with hiding places, property, helping them escape or falsely proving cover-up.	Combating accomplices and accomplices of drug crimes and weakening the social support network of drug crimes involve sheltering and assisting drug criminals.

The above are just some types of drug crimes. In fact, there are various forms and means of drug crimes, and with the development of network technology, drug crimes are constantly evolving and upgrading.

3. Analysis of the characteristics of drug crimes in the network age

(1) The concealment and intelligence of criminal means

In the internet age, the concealment of drug crimes has been greatly enhanced. Criminals can make use of the virtuality and anonymity of the Internet to conduct drug propaganda, sales and trading activities more secretly [9]. At the same time, with the continuous development of network technology, drug criminals are increasingly inclined to use more intelligent means to commit crimes. They may use encryption technology, anonymous communication tools and other high-tech means to hide their identity and whereabouts, making it more difficult to crack down on drug crimes.

(2) Encryption technology and the use of anonymous communication tools

Internet drug criminals often use encryption technology and anonymous communication tools to protect their criminal activities from being discovered. They can use encryption software to encrypt transaction information and communication content, which makes it difficult for law enforcement

departments to obtain effective evidence. At the same time, anonymous communication tools, such as Tor browser and Signal, have also become important tools for drug criminals to contact and communicate, and the use of these tools further increases the difficulty of cracking down on drug crimes.

(3) Dark-net transaction and virtual currency payment

Dark net is an illegal trading platform hidden in the depths of the Internet, where drug criminals often trade drugs. Because of the anonymity and untraceability of the dark net, the drug trade has become more secret and secure. In addition, virtual currency, such as bitcoin, has also become an important payment method for drug transactions, which can not only avoid the supervision of the traditional financial system, but also protect the privacy and security of both parties to the transaction.

(4) Networking and flattening of criminal organizations

In the internet age, the structure of drug criminal organizations has also changed significantly. Traditional hierarchical criminal organizations are gradually replaced by networked criminal organizations. This networked criminal organization is more flexible and efficient, and can quickly adapt to market changes and escape attacks. At the same time, the flattening trend of criminal organizations is becoming more and more obvious, and grass-roots members have more autonomy and decision-making power, making criminal activities more difficult to predict and crack down on.

(5) Decentralized network structure and decentralized organization

With the development of blockchain and other technologies, the application of decentralized network structure and decentralized organization in drug crimes is also increasing. This structure makes the drug trade more difficult to track and attack, because the transaction information is scattered and stored in multiple nodes, rather than concentrated in a central server. At the same time, decentralized organization also enables criminals to organize and coordinate criminal activities more flexibly, which increases the complexity of combating drug crimes.

(6) Cross-border and globalization of criminal activities

The cross-border and globalization trend of online drug crimes is becoming increasingly obvious. Due to the cross-regional characteristics of the Internet, drug criminals can easily cross national borders to carry out activities such as drug publicity, sales and trading. This makes drug crimes no longer confined to a certain region or country, but become a global problem. At the same time, drug criminals from different countries and regions have also conducted transnational cooperation and exchanges through the Internet, forming a more complex and huge transnational drug crime network.

(7) Challenges of international cooperation and transnational law enforcement

The cross-border and globalization of online drug crimes have brought great challenges to international cooperation and transnational law enforcement. There are differences in legal systems and judicial systems in different countries and regions, which leads to many difficulties in combating and prosecuting transnational drug crimes. At the same time, drug criminals also take advantage of international legal loopholes and law enforcement gaps to carry out criminal activities, further increasing the difficulty of cracking down on drug crimes. Therefore, strengthening international cooperation and improving transnational law enforcement mechanism is one of the important ways to combat online drug crimes.

4. The influence and challenge of drug crime in the network age

4.1. Influence

Drug crimes in the internet age have caused all-round negative impacts on society. It aggravates the deterioration of social security and threatens public safety through a chain reaction with violent

crimes; At the same time, the easy availability of drugs on the internet has expanded its social influence. Teenagers face higher exposure risk because of their curiosity, which is extremely unfavorable to their physical and mental health and academic development. In addition, drug abuse has also led to a sharp increase in public health problems, including addiction, the spread of infectious diseases and mental disorders, which seriously threatens the overall well-being of society. See Table 2 for details.

Table 2: The influence of drug crimes in the internet age

Influence dimension	Sub-dimension	Specific content
Influence on social order	Chain criminal activities	Drug crimes are often accompanied by crimes such as violence and robbery, forming a chain reaction.
	The convenience of drug acquisition	Internet makes drug propaganda, sales and trading more convenient and expands social influence.
	Social morality and family breakdown	Drug crimes lead to social moral decay, family breakdown, and affect social stability.
The chain reaction between violence and crime	Violent behavior of criminals	Drug criminals may use violent means to compete for the market or attack their opponents.
	The violent tendency of drug consumers	The hallucinations and delusions that may occur after drug use lead to violent behavior.
	Threats to public safety	The chain reaction of violence and crime poses a serious threat to public safety.
The exposure risk of teenagers to online drugs	Susceptibility of teenagers	Strong curiosity and weak discrimination make teenagers more vulnerable to drug crimes.
	Utilization of network channels	Criminals sell drugs to teenagers through social media and game platforms.
	Long-term impact on teenagers	Exposure to drugs will damage the physical and mental health of teenagers and affect their academic and career development.
Impact on public health	Drug abuse and addiction	Long-term or excessive use of drugs leads to addiction and health problems.
	Transmission risk of infectious diseases	Drug injection and other behaviors increase the spread risk of infectious diseases such as AIDS and hepatitis.
	Mental health problems	Drug crime leads to psychological problems such as anxiety and depression, which affects social function.

4.2. Challenge

Drug crimes in the internet age have caused all-round negative impacts on society. It aggravates

the deterioration of social security and threatens public safety through a chain reaction with violent crimes; At the same time, the easy availability of drugs on the internet has expanded its social influence. Teenagers face higher exposure risk because of their curiosity, which is extremely unfavorable to their physical and mental health and academic development. In addition, drug abuse has also led to a sharp increase in public health problems, including addiction, the spread of infectious diseases and mental disorders, which seriously threatens the overall well-being of society.

5. Coping strategies of drug crimes in the network age

(1) Perfection and innovation at the legislative level

Facing the new characteristics and challenges of drug crimes in the network era, it is particularly important to improve and innovate the legislation. First of all, it is necessary to formulate and revise relevant laws and regulations to adapt to the development and changes of online drug crimes. This includes making clear the definition, constitution and legal responsibility of network drug crimes, increasing the punishment for network drug crimes, and improving relevant evidence rules and litigation procedures. Secondly, we should strengthen law enforcement and judicial justice to ensure the effective implementation of laws and regulations. This requires strengthening the construction of law enforcement team, improving the professional quality and skill level of law enforcement personnel, and strengthening judicial supervision to prevent and correct injustice and dishonesty in law enforcement.

(2) Cooperation and coordination in law enforcement

In the network era, transnational drug crimes are increasingly rampant, and cooperation and coordination at the law enforcement level are particularly important. First of all, it is necessary to strengthen information sharing and cooperation among transnational law enforcement agencies and establish an effective international cooperation mechanism. This can promote the cooperation and exchanges among countries in combating online drug crimes by strengthening the role of international organizations such as Interpol and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. Secondly, it is necessary to strengthen technical investigation and network evidence collection capabilities, and improve the efficiency and accuracy of cracking down on online drug crimes. This requires strengthening the research and application of technical investigation means and improving the technical level and legal effect of network forensics.

(3) Prevention and education at the social level

Prevention and education at the social level is an important means to deal with drug crimes in the network age. First of all, it is necessary to improve the public's awareness and vigilance against online drug crimes and enhance their awareness of self-prevention. This can be achieved by carrying out publicity and education activities and issuing warning information. Secondly, it is necessary to carry out drug prevention education and rehabilitation, help the public understand the harm and addiction mechanism of drugs, and provide drug rehabilitation and rehabilitation services. This requires strengthening the cooperation and cooperation among schools, communities and families, and forming a drug prevention education system with the participation of the whole society.

(4) Technical innovation and supervision

Technical innovation and supervision is an important guarantee to deal with drug crimes in the network age. First of all, it is necessary to develop network security technology and monitoring means to improve the ability to prevent and combat network drug crimes. This includes measures such as strengthening the research and development of network security technology and improving the network security supervision system. Secondly, it is necessary to strengthen the responsibility and self-discipline of Internet enterprises, and promote Internet enterprises to actively participate in

the prevention and crackdown of online drug crimes. This can be achieved by formulating industry norms and strengthening industry supervision.

6. Conclusions

Through in-depth discussion on the characteristics, influences and coping strategies of drug crimes in the network era, this study draws the following main findings: drug crimes in the network era are characterized by concealment, intelligence and cross-border, which have had a serious impact on social security, public health and international governance; In order to meet these challenges, we need to take comprehensive measures from legislative, law enforcement, social and technical levels; These coping strategies have achieved certain results in practice, but there are still limitations and shortcomings.

For the perfection and innovation of legislation, the formulation and revision of relevant laws and regulations provide a powerful legal weapon to combat online drug crimes; The cooperation and coordination at the law enforcement level has strengthened the information sharing and cooperation of transnational law enforcement agencies and improved the efficiency of crackdown; Prevention and education at the social level have improved the public's awareness and vigilance, and formed a good atmosphere for the whole society to participate; Technical innovation and supervision provide strong technical support for preventing and cracking down on online drug crimes. In terms of policy suggestions, this paper puts forward the following points: first, improve the legislative system and clarify the legal responsibility and punishment standards of online drug crimes; Second, strengthen law enforcement and international cooperation, and form a joint force to crack down on online drug crimes; Third, strengthen social propaganda, education and guidance, and improve the public's awareness and prevention awareness of online drug crimes; The fourth is to promote technological innovation and regulatory upgrading, and improve the technical ability and level of preventing and cracking down on online drug crimes.

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