

ABSTRACT

Women have been the most contributing yet most vulnerable actors in Colombia's drug trafficking. Women's contribution is proven by their presence in all tiers of the drug value chain; cultivation, production, and distribution. Nevertheless, it is worth noting that the coca economy has also placed women at the center of violence by positioning them in low-ranking, low-paying, and high-risk job positions. Acknowledging that existing research focuses more on the security side of the War on Drugs and neglects aspects related to gender, this research aims to scrutinize how War on Drugs has perpetuated the economic oppression that women must bear. Women here refers to women workers who are involved in the drug value chain.

By recognizing women's vulnerability and analyzing War on Drugs through a Marxist feminism perspective, this research identified several ways in which War on Drugs has perpetuated women's economic oppression. Firstly, the War on Drugs has institutionalized standards of femininity in its criminal justice that further perpetuate traditional gender roles. Secondly, the policy has falsely framed cococaleras as the enemies of the state that deserve unjust treatment. Lastly, the War on Drugs programs mostly do not ensure women's effective participation as it perceived women as secondary actors. In essence, by problematizing War on Drugs as a state-centric and masculine approach policy, this research uncovers how state security is often attained at the stake of women's welfare.

Key Word: War on Drugs, women's economic oppression, Marxist feminism