

The Attraction of Marijuana Hash on Youth: A Qualitative Study

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ABSTRACT

This Qualitative-Phenomenological study aims to explore the attraction of marijuana on youth. Data is collected through Observation and Semi-Structured interview method. There are short term and long-term effects of marijuana. Some celebrities have also spoken in behalf of marijuana hash. People are attracted due to 5 distinct things these are Peer pressure, Burden, to fit into society, to overcome with other drugs, Connecting with religion. These findings are most common to attract any teenage to marijuana.

Keywords: Marijuana, Youth, Peer pressure, Family, Religion

Marijuana is a Green, Brown or Gray mix of dried, crumbled parts from the marijuana plant. The plant contains chemicals which act on our brain and can change the mood or consciousness. The active ingredient on marijuana hash or cannabis plant is THC (tetrahydrocannabinol). The person feel himself being high, artistic, relaxed, dreamy and more sexually attracted.

There are many ways to use marijuana hash. People use marijuana by rolling it up and smoke it like a cigarette (joint), smoke with a pipe (bong), by mixing it with a food and eating it in brownies etc., smoking oils from the plant(dabbing), smoking it by using electronic vaporizer(vapping).

Marijuana is a type of drug so it has mental and physical effects on our body. There are short term effects like altered senses, such as seeing brighter colours or it seems like colourful world, altered sense of time such as minutes seems like hours, change in mood, change in appetite and thirst, problem with body movement as it makes a person relaxed, having trouble with cognitions (thinking, problem solving, memory).

The long-term effects are more severe than short term. If we smoke marijuana frequently, we face coughing and breathing problems. It has a problem with child development during and after pregnancy, if a woman smokes marijuana while pregnant.

Today's youth is affected from marijuana hash. If start using marijuana hash from teenage, then it is possible to get more addicted to it. If we are addicted to it than we will have strong need to take the drug to get that same high. When we try to quit, you may have mild withdrawal symptoms such as irritability, cravings, trouble sleeping, decrease appetite.

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There have been scientific studies on marijuana which says that there are some medicinal uses of this plant. The two main cannabinoids in this plant are THC and CBD. The FDA (food and drug administration, USA) approved that THC will help to treat nausea caused by Chemotherapy and increase appetite in patients who have severe weight loss from aids. The liquid drug contains CBD treats severe childhood epilepsy.

There are movies and web series which play a major role in attraction of marijuana on youth.

Stoner movies are-

- Amazon prime- Dazed and Confused, The Gentleman, The Marijuana Show, Birds of Passage, High Maintenance, Pineapple Expression.
- Netfix- Disjointed, Cooked with Cannabis, Dude, Family Business, Grass is Greener.
- Indian films – The Blueberry Hunt, Charas(1976), Charas(2004), Dum Maroo Dum, Hidimbha, Simba(2019), Marijuana(2020) , Michael(2023).

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Govt. of Canada (2018)

- **Is cannabis safe to use?**

To protect youth from health affects of cannabis use. They make cannabis act restricts asses to cannabis. The youth is more likely to experience harm of cannabis because brain is still developing until the age around 25. The earlier start using of cannabis harm more. They have difficulties in studying and more likely to drop out of high school.

National library of medicine (Engl j mid.2014 Jun 5)

- **Adverse health effects of marijuana.**

The regular use of marijuana during adolescence has short term and long-term effects on health.

Short term effects are –

Making it difficult to learn and to retain information. Impaired motor coordination. Interfere with driving skills and increase risk of injuries.

Long term effects are-

Addiction (about 9% of users overall,17% who begins in adolescence and 23 to 50% who are daily users). Cognitive impairment with lower IQ among those who were frequent users during adolescence. Increase risk of schizophrenia and other chronic psychosis disorders.

Law Pedia (Blog) (Dinesh Gardia and Akash Nanda)

- **Is weed or marijuana legal in India?**

The central law that deals with marijuana in India is NDPS Act,1985(1) [Narcotic Drug and Psychotropic Substance Act]. The different states have their own laws relating to consumption, sale or purchase of marijuana.

- Odisha is a state in which marijuana is legal and people use as ‘chillums’ to smoke weed within state’s territory.
- Uttarakhand is first state in India to allow commercial cultivation of hemp plant.

Holding small quantity, the punishment is rigorous imprisonment for up to 6 months, fine of Rs 10,000 or both. Holding more than small quantity but less than commercial quantity, the prescribed punishment is rigorous imprisonment up to 10 years, Rs 1 lakh or both. Holding commercial quantity, prescribed is 10-20 years, fine Rs 1-2 lakh.

Paul frysch and reviewed by Jabeen Begum Jan 2012

- **How pot affects your mind and body.**

The main psychoactive ingredient in marijuana is THC, stimulates the part of brain that respond to pleasure like food and sex. When you smoke marijuana, the THC get into bloodstream quickly enough for you to get you high in seconds or minutes and effect may wear off in 1-3 hours.

National institute on drug abuse Dec 2019.

- **Cannabis (marijuana).**

Overdose occur when person uses enough drug to produce life threatening symptoms or death. Some people use marijuana can feel some very uncomfortable side effects, when using high THC level products. People reported symptoms such as anxiety or paranoia, delusions and hallucinations that can lead them to seek treatment in an emergency rooms.

Published by Mosh (Feb 9, 2024) The Moshville times.

- **Cannabis in pop culture.**

The Tv shows, Films and Series have shown characteristics using cannabis for pain relief, Anxiety management and other health related reasons. The Portrayal aligns with the increasing acceptance of medical cannabis and its potential to improve people's lives.

Indian celebrities spoken for marijuana.

- **Uday Chopra.**

"I think India should legalize cannabis. First of all, because it is a part of our culture. Second, because marijuana, once it is legal and pays it tax, could become an important source of income".

- **Richa Chadha.**

Cannabis is among the five holy vegetation in ayurveda.

"Cannabis is one of the 5 sacred plants mentioned in the Atharvaveda. Bhang is considered Bholenath ka parshad, is even legal on Mahashivratri and Holi! There are several references to weed in our texts. In fact, the name 'indica' literally means from India".

- **Abhay Deol**

"The world need hemp" on world health day 2019 that says-

Today is world health day. I would like to bring your attention to a much-maligned plant, hemp. Faster to grow, and stronger than cotton requires much less water. Environmentally friendly, a good source of protein and essential fatty acids, we must introspect as to why it is banned in most parts of the world. It's time to put the planet our profits. Historically it has helped build our culture, let's go back to sustainable living".

Medical news today-Tom rush (Jan 29,2024).

- **Health benefits of cannabis.**

There are multiple health benefits of cannabis. It is used to treat some conditions like chronic pain, to reduce the alcoholism and drug addiction, depression, post-traumatic stress disorder and social anxiety, multiple sclerosis and epilepsy.

American academy of child and adolescent psychiatry.

- **Marijuana and teens.**

They talk about the preventions used by parents to control their child and too aware about the marijuana effects on body and mental health.

- Ask what they heard about marijuana. Avoid making negative or angry comments.
- Offer your child facts about the risk and consequences of smoking marijuana.

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- If you choose to talk about your own experiences with drugs, be honest about why you used and the pressure that contributed to your use.

METHODOLOGY

Qualitative- phenomenological research method was chosen to measure the attraction of marijuana hash towards youth.

According to Moleong (2011) Defines Qualitative Research as Research that is used to understand phenomena experienced by Research participant.

(For example- Behavior, Motivation and Actions)

The data obtained and then analyzed with Triangulation method- Observation (non participant observation) method and Semi-Structured interview method. This approach opens up to better understand in depth of attraction towards marijuana hash.

Sample

The participant in this study is 20 persons i.e. 15 college students aged (18-22 years) and 5 local people aged (23-26 years) in Delhi city.

Procedure

Data collection was conducted through Non participant observation method with college students for one week and Semi Structured interview with local people containing a list of questions to be answered by respondents. The advantage of Non participant observation method is that it gives more objective view of subject that what is occurring. The advantage of Semi Structured interview is that it has ability to capture the complexity and diversity of responses, it also gives the flexibility to customize their approach.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The research is done with Triangulation Method includes (non participant and semi structured method). The result contains 5 distinct things which attract youth to smoke marijuana hash.

- 1. Peer group-** Due to peer pressure students are smoking hash, anyone who is smoking cigarette is asked to smoke marijuana once for a try. It makes” high” after smoking hash and give more pleasure and relaxation than cigarette.
- 2. To fit into society-** To look cool they are smoking hash, so that anyone will not ask them that they are Old- school type person and do not make fun of them.
- 3. Burden or pressure-** They are smoking because of some kind of burden or pressure i.e. Family, Study or Relationship pressure.
- 4. To overcome with other addiction of drugs-** Some are smoking to get rid off alcohol and other drugs, because it is cheaper than other drugs and it also makes “high” and give pleasure same as other drugs.
- 5. Connecting with Religion-** Some people are taking marijuana hash as Religious or Spiritual kind that their Guru take them as Medicine and Prashad.

CONCLUSION

We come to know from this research that youth is attracting day by day towards this hash. They really want to know about pros and cons. They are attracting more due to peer pressure and by looking at other people and movies.

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Youth is taking marijuana hash as a light drug that it does not have any kind of effect on their mind and body, but it is internally affecting the body. They are aware of every kind of drug in the market. The connection of marijuana hash with religion is more nowadays and the main reason that people want to legalize this hash. The parents have to be aware of that what their child is doing because they are the future and if they are doing so then it will harm them in the future.

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Conflict of Interest

The author(s) declared no conflict of interest.

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