

Name

Institution

Professor

Date

### Legalization of Marijuana

Marijuana is a combination of leaves, flower buds, and stems of the Cannabis sativa plant. Wheelock asserts that people smoke Marijuana, vaporize it, eat raw, consume topically, and brew it. Voters in California passed the 215 proposition in 1996, which made the Golden State the first one to allow medical use of Marijuana. Approximately twenty-seven years after, cities such as Puerto, Guam and District of Columbia enacted laws that assemble California State. Twenty-eight states including district of Colombia, which allow for comprehensive public programs. Combined efforts in seventeen states allow usage of low THC, high cannabidiol (CBD) products in medical problems as legal defense. The legalization allows a discussion on Marijuana and its effects on human body, its form of legalization in different states and reasons for legalizing (3).

Most people find it easier to smoke Marijuana. Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) is the toxic chemical substance in marijuana. It has increased potential, which makes it difficult to indicate its long-term and short-term effects. Reports from National survey on drug use and health (NSDUH) indicate that approximately 17.4 million citizens living in United States have consumed Marijuana in 2010, making it the most common abused illegal drug. The numbers approximate to at least four Americans in groups of ten having consumed Marijuana (4).

### **Means of consumption**

Cannabis is spread on rolled papers that form cigarettes and smoked to release THC that absorbs in the blood stream through lungs. People use bubblers, glass pipes, and bong as a means of smoking Marijuana. It is added in foods such as candy and butter, in beverages (milk, soda and alcohol), in liquids and brewed in tea. Vaporization method involves use of e-cigarettes where cannabis is heated at lower temperatures to release plant extracts and oils (Wheelock 5).

### **Effects of marijuana in the body**

Marijuana produces euphoria feelings since it stimulates cells to release dopamine. Euphoria feelings are immediate when marijuana is smoked and slower when ingested. Marijuana irritates and causes infections to the respiratory system such as lungs and bronchial passages. Regular smokers wheeze, produce phlegm, and cough. They suffer from asthma and fibrosis. Marijuana affects the circulatory system negatively through increasing heart rate by at least 50 beats per minute, which ends up in a heart attack. Blood vessels in the eye expand resulting in bloodshot eyes. It upsets the balance, reflex response, and coordination. Marijuana causes mental health problems such as depression, anxiety, hallucinations, and delusions. It damages the immune system leaving the user vulnerable to diseases. Coordination is a problem among users combined with a decrease in interest to complete tasks (Wheelock 7-8).

### **Legalization of Marijuana**

ProCon (1) states that comprehensive programs legalizing Marijuana include, protecting criminal penalties following use of Marijuana for medical purposes, accessing marijuana through cultivation and dispensaries.

Users strain consuming low THC, which allows for vaporization and smoking of Marijuana products, extracts, and plant material. The national academic of sciences, engineering, and medicine reviewed 10,000 abstract on research done on Marijuana.

Despite the above negative effects of Marijuana, United States governments allows businesses to apply licenses that allow them manufacture and cultivate marijuana products for medical use, recreational purposes, and research. The interest of the state to legalize Marijuana as for medical reasons began in 1970s, which led to decriminization of marijuana in Oregon, Alaska, and Maine. The federal government issued demonization, research, and prohibition restrictions on marijuana. The Baby Boom generation realized through experience that Marijuana was actually not the demon weed. Drug Alliance has legalized and regulated marijuana laws to resemble alcohol and tobacco laws In United States. Five states,Arizona,California,Nevada,Washington,Oregon,Alaska, Colorado,and Massachusetts legalized the weed for use in recreational purposes among adults,which was similar to laws given governing alcohol. Medical Marijuana was legalized in Florida,Arkansas,Pennsylvania, and North Dakota (2).

Legalizing Marijuana shifts the nation to a higher economic and cultural level. Washington D.C legalized possession of cannabis,its cultivation, and use. Massachusetts passed laws regarding use of marijuana to people older than twenty-one years.Its sale in Massachusetts imposes an additional tax of two percent. The funds accumulated from sale of Marijuana will help the state to establish new commission and laws. Legalized laws of Marijuana in California allow people aged twenty-one and older to possess and consume marijuana for use in recreational purposes. Adults have legal permission to possess one-ounce marijuana and grow less than six plants away from the public (3).

In Nevada, the drug is to be possessed twenty-five miles away from the retail stores. Licensed cultivators are to pay fifteen percent excise tax. Funds contributed will implement measures and support k-12 education (4).

## **Reasons for legalizing Marijuana**

### **Medicinal use**

Drug policy in United States asserts that Marijuana is highly legalized in many states because of its medicinal use such as alleviating chronic pain, anxiety, vomiting, nausea, and muscle spasms. It is used in cancer treatment and preventing multiple sclerosis. Marijuana cures brain related problems such as epilepsy, brain injury, multiple sclerosis, stroke, and dementia. It eliminates post-surgical pain, neuropathic and advanced cancer pain. Gastrointestinal disorders solved include stimulating the appetite, Cohn's disease, ulcerative colitis, and irritable bowel syndrome.

### **Prevent crime**

Drug policy in United States reports that it legalized Marijuana to reduce harm caused through disproportionate use by young people such as violence, corruption, crime, and failure to curb access to youths.

### **Create jobs**

Marijuana is a widely grown cash crop, regulating and legalizing it creates more jobs in the economy and offers other opportunities that grow the economy. As a result, participation in the illicit market reduces.

### **Save money**

Regulating sale of marijuana earns the government additional taxes as well as usage of scarce resources that enforce the law. Lawful policies affect public safety and reduce costs on court corrections.

### **Promote consumer safety**

Legalizing marijuana creates opportunities to create awareness of Marijuana and consequences that follow. Standard requirements are strictly followed in the Marijuana markets (1-2). Liberty Party of Canada (1) explains legalizing, regulating, and restricting Marijuana in Canada ensures Marijuana is away from children and the profits are taken from criminals. Incidental possession and consumption of Marijuana is removed from criminal Code as new and stronger laws are incorporated to those offering it to minors, operating vehicles under its influence and those using it outside legal framework. The federal taskforce and inputs offered from public health experts, offers a new design system of substance abuse that enforce new laws on sales and distribution of marijuana. Appropriate provincial and federal taxes apply on use of Marijuana.

### **Conclusion**

In conclusion, legalization of Marijuana has offered healing opportunities to patients undergoing painful moments. It has offered recreational efforts to adults. Marijuana has increased taxes to the government, which has increased financial support awarded to schools and other government projects. Crime rates have dropped emanating from alcohol because there are restrictions to use appropriate doses. Strict measures placed against children found possessing the drug, add to good morals in the community.

Works cited

Liberty Party of Canada. 'We will legalize, regulate, and restrict access to Marijuana'. *Federal*

*liberal Agency of Canada*(2017). Accessed 14<sup>th</sup> January, 2017

<https://www.liberal.ca/realchange/marijuana/>

Drug policy. 'Marijuana legalization and regulation'. *Drug policy issues (2017)*. Accessed 14<sup>th</sup>

January, 2017 <http://www.drugpolicy.org/marijuana-legalization-and-regulation>

Wheelock, Barbara. 'Physiological and psychological effects of cannabis: Review of the research findings'. *Prepared for the senate special committee on illegal drugs (2002)*, 1-52. Print.

Madras, Bertha. 'Update of Cannabis and its medical use'. *Alcohol and drug abuse research program (2015)*, 1-41.