

A Study on the Need for Legalizing Drugs

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Abstract: *There has been defence for legalization of abusable substances, but systematic data on societal beliefs regarding such legalization are limited people that use substances may have unique beliefs about legalization, and this study assessed whether or not they would be in favor of drug legalization/decriminalization. It had been theorized that those that use particular drugs would support its legalization/decriminalization, but that this is able to not be the case across all classes. A sample of about 210 respondents were surveyed online to assess demographic characteristics, legalization/decriminalization beliefs for specific drugs were assessed particularly for medical and recreational uses. The results from this particular research suggests that folks strongly support legalization of medical marijuana but are slightly hesitant, yet agree on legalization of recreational marijuana. The research method followed here is empirical research. A total of 210 samples have been collected through convenient sampling method. The data has been collected from secondary data sources such as articles, journals, online websites and literature sources. The independent variables are age, gender, marital status, educational qualification and occupation. The dependent variables are Do you think there's a need to legalize drugs, Do you consider drugs a good recreational activity, Do you think legalization of drugs will have a positive effect on the suffering addicts, In your opinion, how does legalized recreational marijuana affect those recovering from addictions from other drugs, should Marijuana be legal for medicinal use, should Marijuana be legal for recreational use. The statistical tool used here is graphical representation. The result obtained from this study is that decriminalizing marijuana would be the right thing to do right now and further legalizing marijuana for medical purposes would not only be beneficial for the medical industry, but also for the economy of the state*

Keywords: Marijuana, Legalization, Decriminalization, Medicine, Narcotics

I. INTRODUCTION

Legalization of drugs is that the process of removing all legal disallowances against it. All narcotic drugs would then be available to the adult general population for purchase and use at will, almost like tobacco and alcohol. Decriminalization is that the act of removing criminal sanctions against an act, article, or behavior. Decriminalization means it might remain illegal, but the system wouldn't prosecute an individual for possession under a specified amount. Instead, the penalties would range from no penalties in the least, civil fines, drug education, or drug treatment. The past 20 years have caused massive changes in social policies regarding the utilization of narcotic drugs for medical and other purposes. consistent with the middle for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality (CBHSQ), past-month use of cannabis, specifically, has risen steadily annually within the general population from 5.8% in 2007 to eight .4% in 2014. Additionally, recent research suggests that physicians' drug prescribing patterns can also be changing in states with legalized medical cannabis. A drop by filled prescriptions in such states between 2010 and 2013 for drugs for the treatment of conditions like pain, anxiety, depression et al. are reported. An alternate option for opiates for patients with chronic pain is switching to the utilization of cannabis to navigate dose reduction and to treat their pain and/or comorbid conditions outright because the future use may have unintended consequences regarding dose reactions. Although legalizing or decriminalizing drugs would reduce the crime rates and also would drop the prices of these drugs by one - fifth, that would also mean that about five times more people would be able to afford or access these drugs and the number of addicts and the number of children born with these drug compounds in their blood would



increase. Fortunately, neither does drugs like cannabis have a specific lethal dose, so there won't be deaths due to this, nor does cannabis trigger violent behavior in them like alcohol does. Several countries have already legalized certain drugs. Czechia, Netherlands, Switzerland and Portugal are among the few countries that have decriminalized the possession of drugs and for their personal use.. In 2001, Portugal became the primary European country to abolish all criminal penalties for private possession of medicine . Further, all drug users were given therapy instead of prison sentences. About 26 states within the US have passed either medical cannabis laws, cannabis decriminalization laws, or both.

Objectives:

- To know if there's a need to legalize drugs.
- To study the pros and cons of legalizing drugs.
- To compare the drug policy in India and other countries.

II. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Shah et al. (2004) The article Paradoxes in the Indian Drug laws the author discusses that India is the largest pharmaceutical market. WHO ranks India as the third largest in the world industry in multinational pharmaceutical companies.(Shah 2004)

Tandom et al. (2019) in the article Drug policy in India the author represents an important opportunity in review progress to set meaningful goals for future drug policy.(Chandra et al. 2019)

Ballara et al. (2020) the article Cannabis in coffee shops states that cannabis has had some degree of sociocultural sanction in India besides the use for medical purposes. The only exception is Bhang. (Balhara et al. 2020)

Martin Jelsma (2003) in the article Drugs in the UN system, The “ International Community” has apparent unanimity in prohibitive drug control. The long standing conflict between nations in the UN system about the prohibition regime. (“Drugs in the UN System: The Unwritten History of the 1998 United Nations General Assembly Special Session on Drugs” 2003)

Wisehart (2018) in his article on Drug control and International Law provides extensive legal analysis in the International drug control system. The UN Drug Convention has institutions outdated suppressing necessary changes. (Wisehart 2018)

Hall (2014) the article Drug and Alcohol Review discusses cannabis policy debates during the period 1993 - 2010 which focuses on the controversy which erupted. It overtook WHO in mid 1990 on the comparative harms on cannabis, alcohol and opiates. (“Error - Cookies Turned Off” n.d.)

Dasgupta (2013) His article on Legalization of Marijuana In India discusses about Marijuana which has been in use during the prehistoric period closely integrated with the history of ancient civilization in India. It was incorporated into the religious customs and traditions during the period of God and Goddesses. (Dasgupta, n.d.)

Niekerk (2014) The article Medical Marijuana and Beyond talks about “ Legalize Marijuana for Medical purpose” made a cry in the parliament about the abuse of drugs which is harmful to the individual, the family, communities. Declaring a war on drugs was given as an emotional appeal. (van Niekerk 2014)

Nair et al. (2019) The E-Pharmacy regulation in India speaks of the E-Pharmacy market in India propelled surgeons. The Government initiative Digital Indian Campaign created competition among various data providers.(Nair 2019)

Dixon (1922) The article, Truth about Indian Opium talks about Opium, generally eaten in pills, some dissolved in water, drunk, ordinary domestic medicine skilled in medical treatment in medicine and pain. (Dixon 1922)

Collins (2020) The article, History of Cannabis and Drug Conventions discusses cannabis regulation since 1925. This essay explores the legal historical complexity and contingencies for the development of International Cannabis Regulation. (Collins 2020)

Weatherburn (2014) in his article Pros and Cons of Prohibiting Drugs acknowledges the social, financial costs of the prohibition against illegal drugs and also the prohibition and prevention of a great deal of harm. (Weatherburn 2014)



Stares (1996) wrote an article on the Drug Legalization time for a real debate on drug legalization should include regulatory questions. To evaluate drug legalization about widespread or global implementation required (Stares 1996)

Guzanan (2016) in the article Pros and Cons of Legalizing Marijuana says that Marijuana affects the number of chemicals in our brain. It can alter the way the brain processes the information . THC, CBD, and 60 other chemicals affect the brain. (Stares 1996; Caulkins, Kilmer, and Kleiman 2016)

Ostrowski (1990) in his article Moral and Practical case for Drug Legislation presents the comprehensive argument on the legalization of consciousness of altering drugs. Drug policy and analysis were explored. (Ostrowski 1990)

Corroon (2017) The article Cannabis as a substitute for prescription drugs talks about the use of medical cannabis is increasing which is commonly used for pain, anxiety, and depression. The studies show that drug abuse is decreasing in places where medical cannabis is legal. (Corroon, Mischley, and Sexton 2017)

Monckeberg (2014) in his article Pros and Cons of legalizing Marjuana discusses how several countries accepted marjuana as a soft drug separate from more dangerous ones. (Wen, Hockenberry, and Cummings 2014)

Anne (2009) the article To legalize or not to legalize, discusses the advantages of liberalization of current drug laws which would lead to the fall in drug prices. The article focuses on recent economic studies examining the effects of fall in prices of them. (“[No Title]” n.d.)

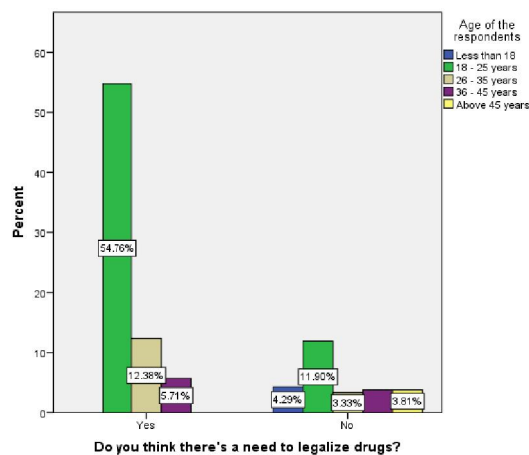
Jeffrey (2001) Legal status of commodities such as marijuana, cocaine, and heroine differs drastically from that of nearly all other goods. The production, distribution, and possession of illegal drugs are prohibited outright. (“[No Title]” n.d., “Website” n.d.)(Miron, n.d.)

Jacobs (1990) the article debates over drug legalization ebbs and flows without a fleshed-out proposal for what drug legalization means and how it would work. (Jacob, n.d.)

III. METHODOLOGY

The research method followed here is empirical research. A total of 210 samples have been collected through convenient sampling method. The data has been collected from secondary data sources such as articles, journals, online websites and literature sources. The independent variables are age, gender, marital status, educational qualification and occupation. The dependent variables are Do you think there's a need to legalize drugs, Do you consider drugs a good recreational activity, Do you think legalization of drugs will have a positive effect on the suffering addicts, In your opinion, how does legalized recreational marijuana affect those recovering from addictions from other drugs, should Marijuana be legal for medicinal use, should Marijuana be legal for recreational use. The statistical tool used here is graphical representation.

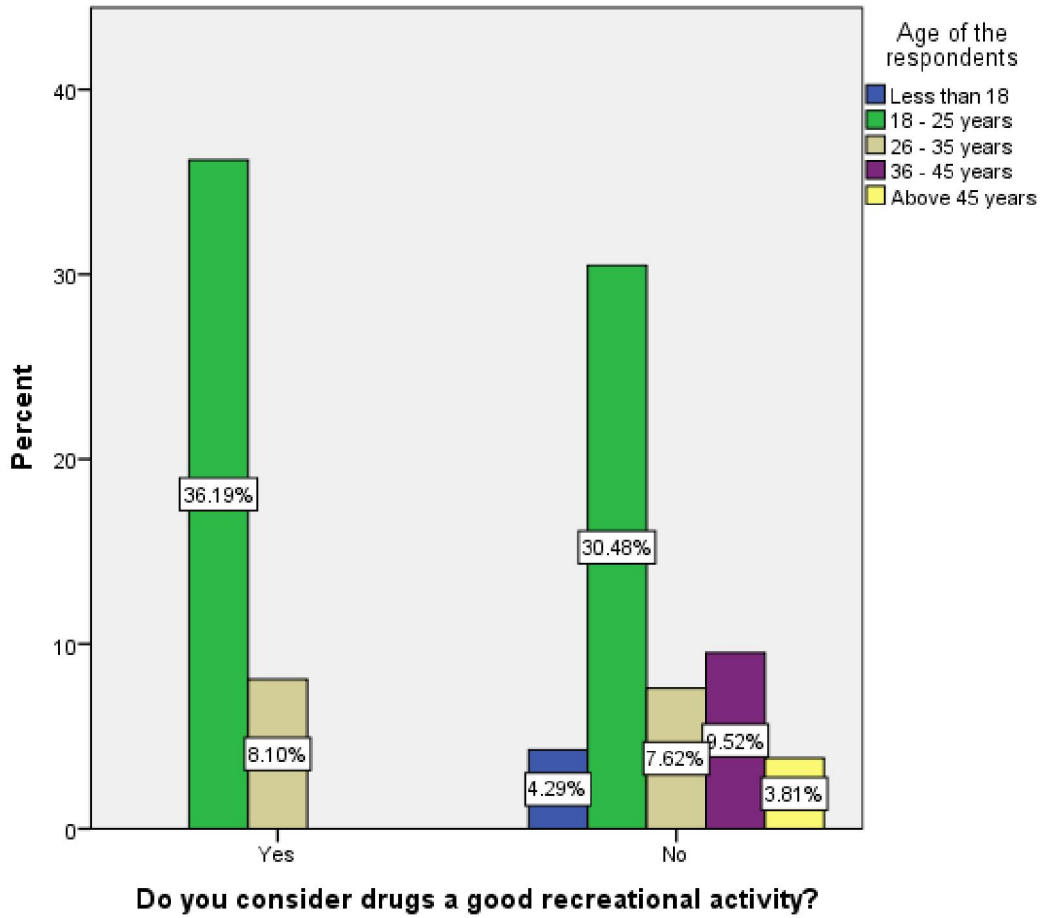
Figure 1



Legend: Figure 1 represents the age distribution of the sample population and their opinion on if drugs should be legalized.



Figure 2

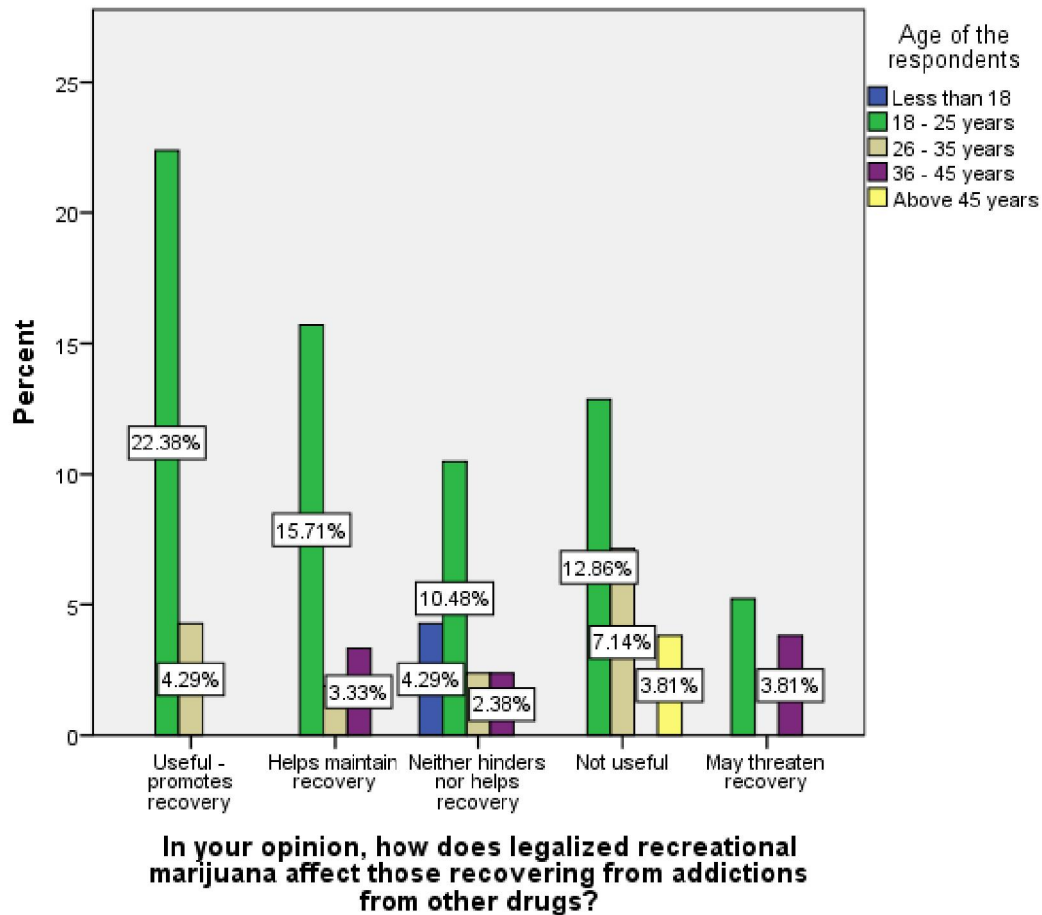


Legend:

Figure 2 represents the age group distribution of the sample population and their opinion on if drugs are a good recreational activity.



Figure 3

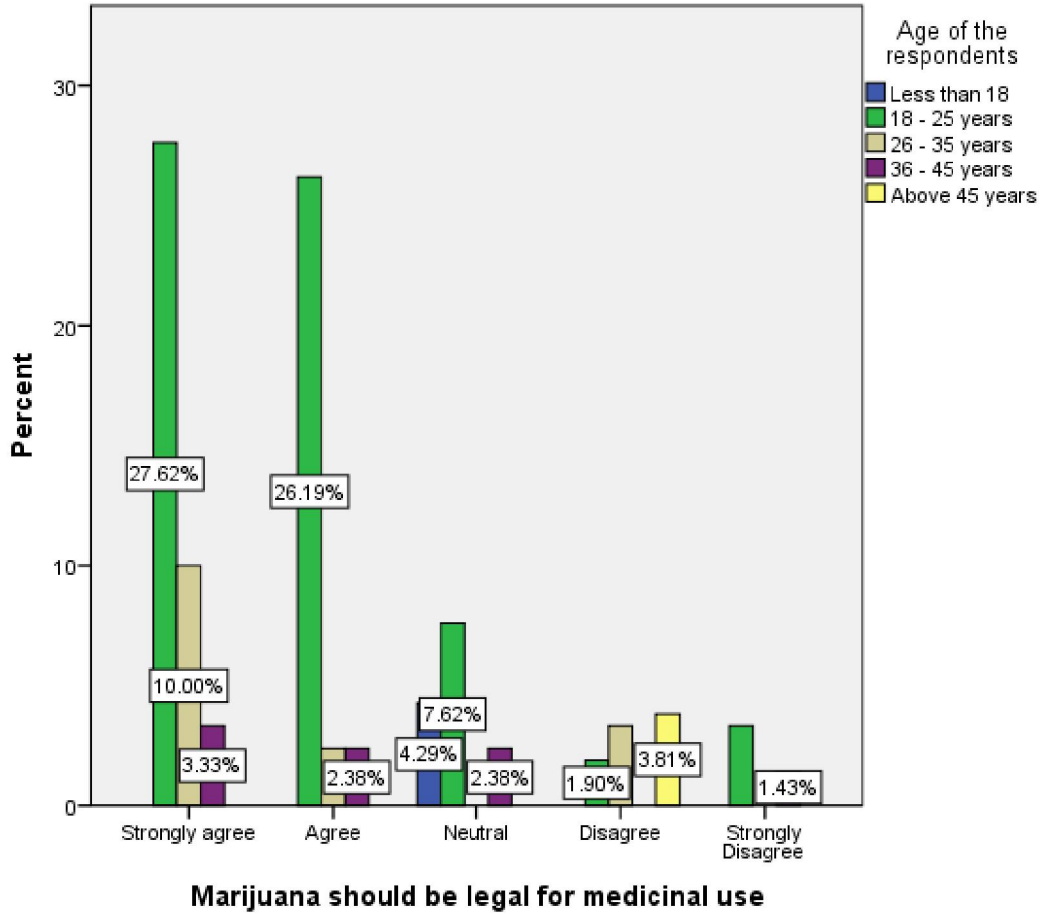


Legend:

Figure 3 represents the age distribution of the sample population and their opinion on how legalized recreational marijuana affects those recovering from addictions from other drugs.



Figure 4

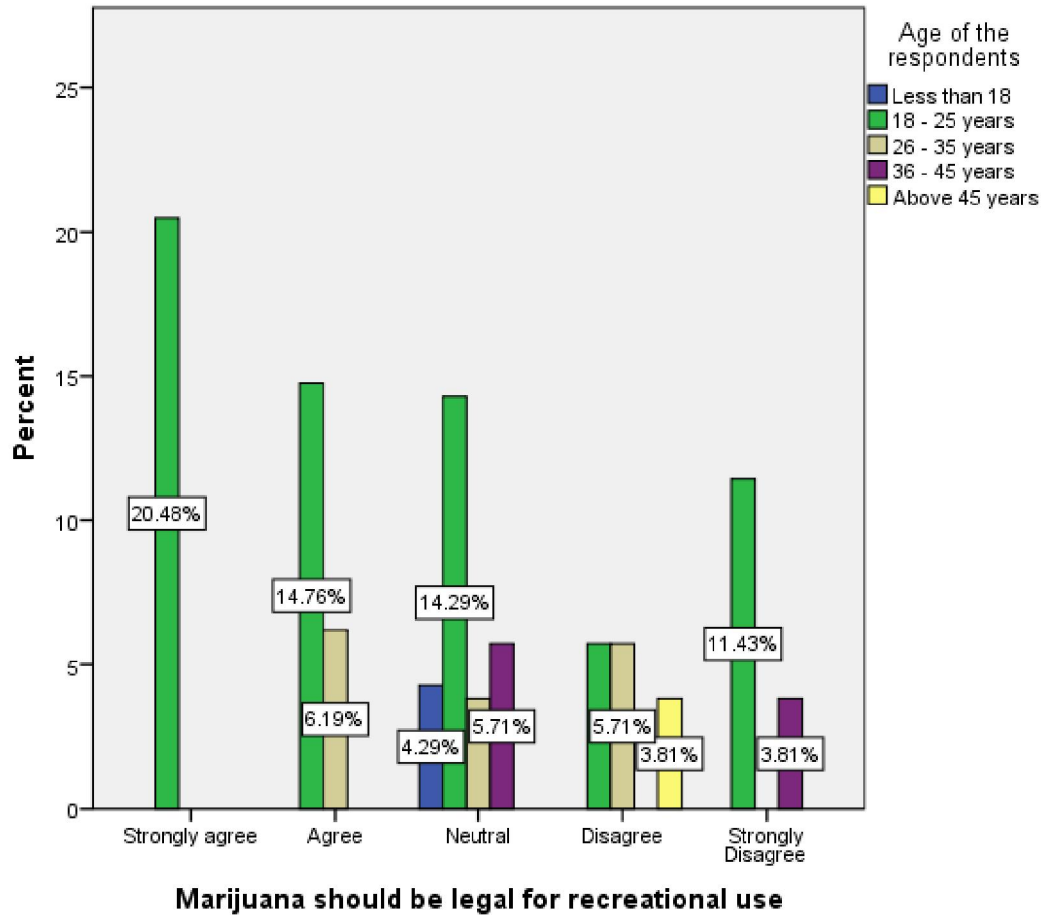


Legend:

Figure 4 represents the age distribution of the sample population and their opinion on if marijuana should be made legal for medicinal use.



Figure 5

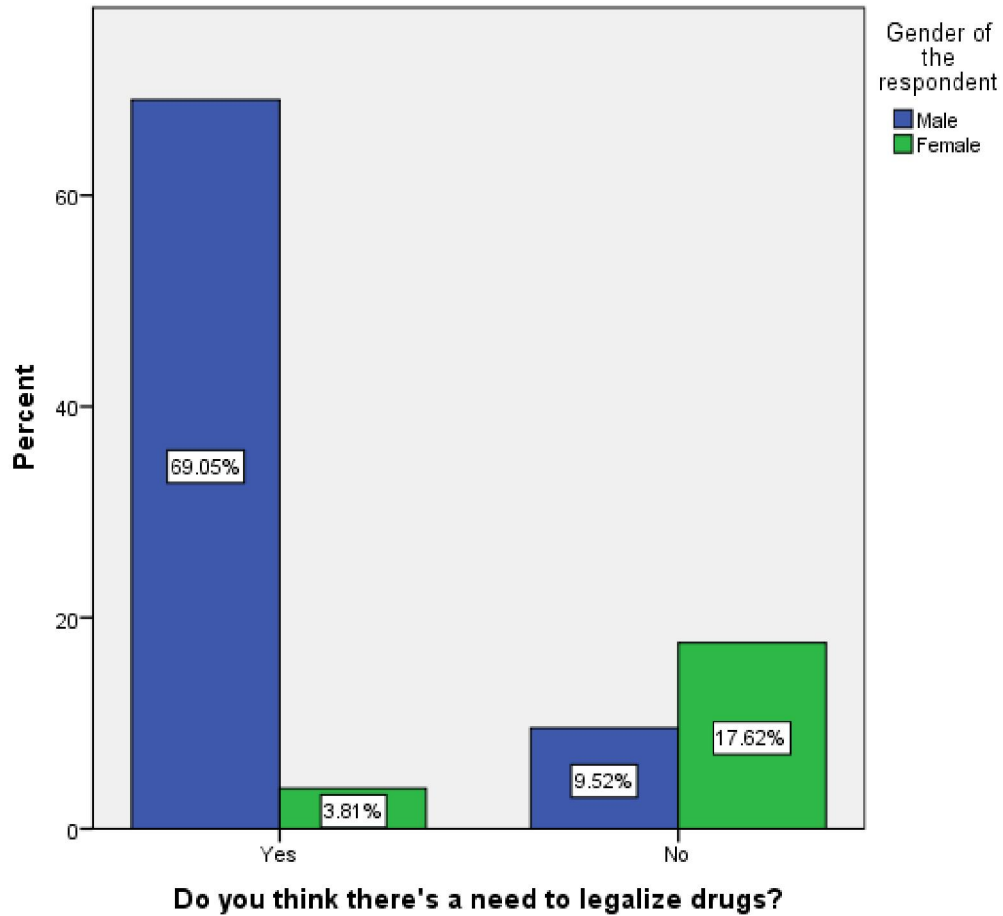


Legend:

Figure 5 represents the age distribution of the sample population and their opinion on if marijuana should be made legal for recreational use.



Figure 6

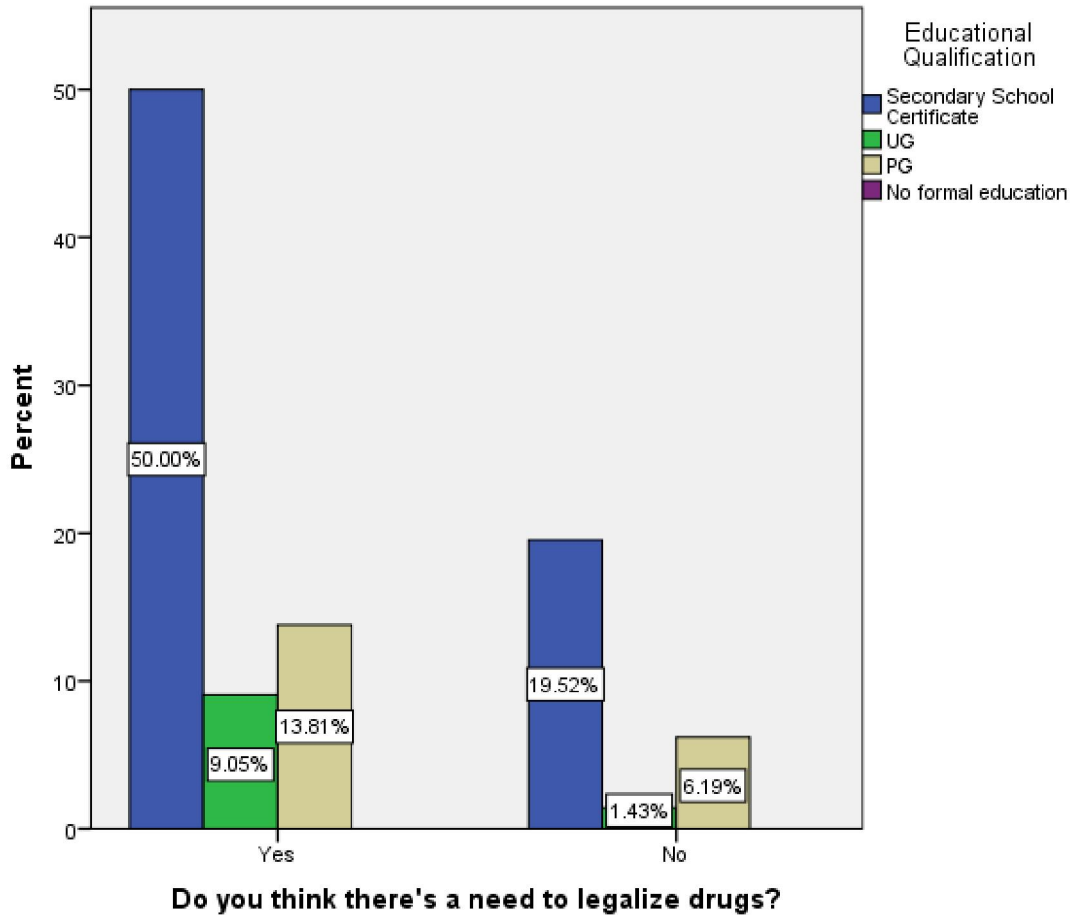


Legend:

Figure 6 represents the gender distribution of the sample population and their opinion on if there is a need to legalize drugs.



Figure 7

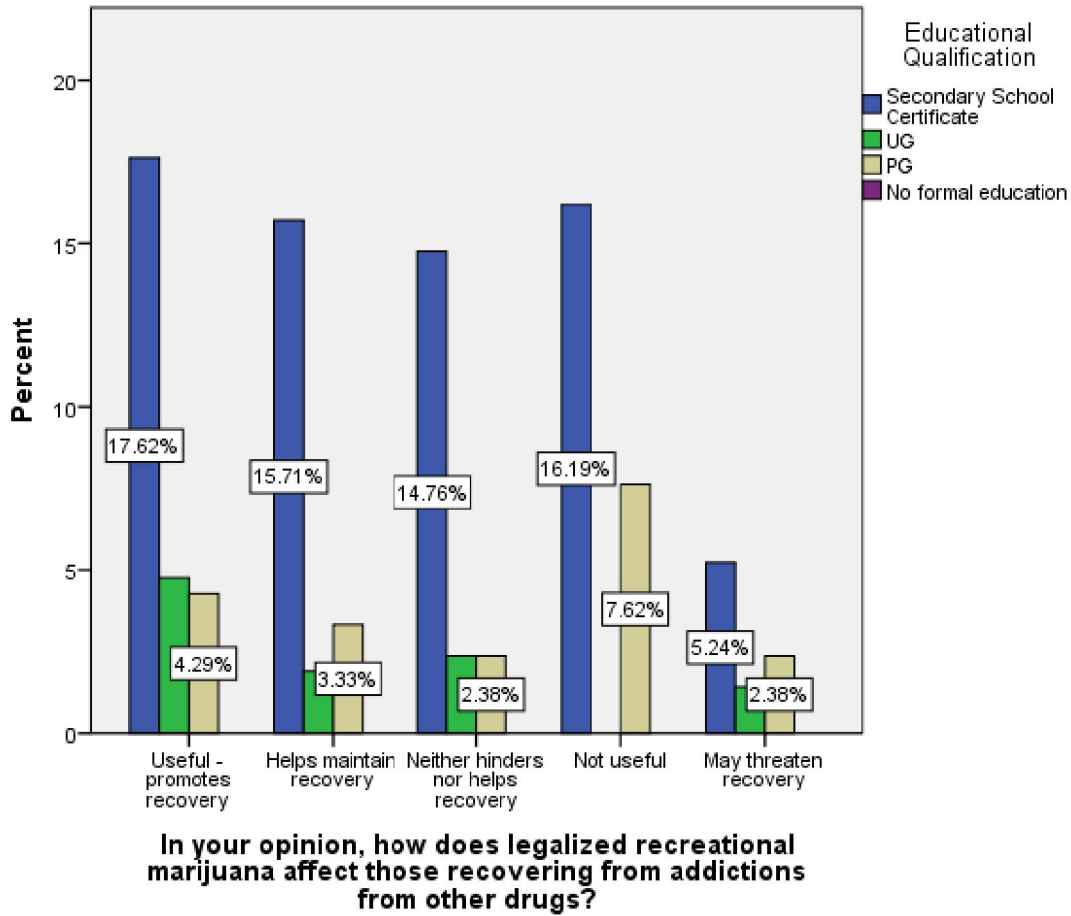


Legend:

Figure 7 represents the educational qualification distribution of the sample population and their opinion on if drugs should be legalized.



Figure 8

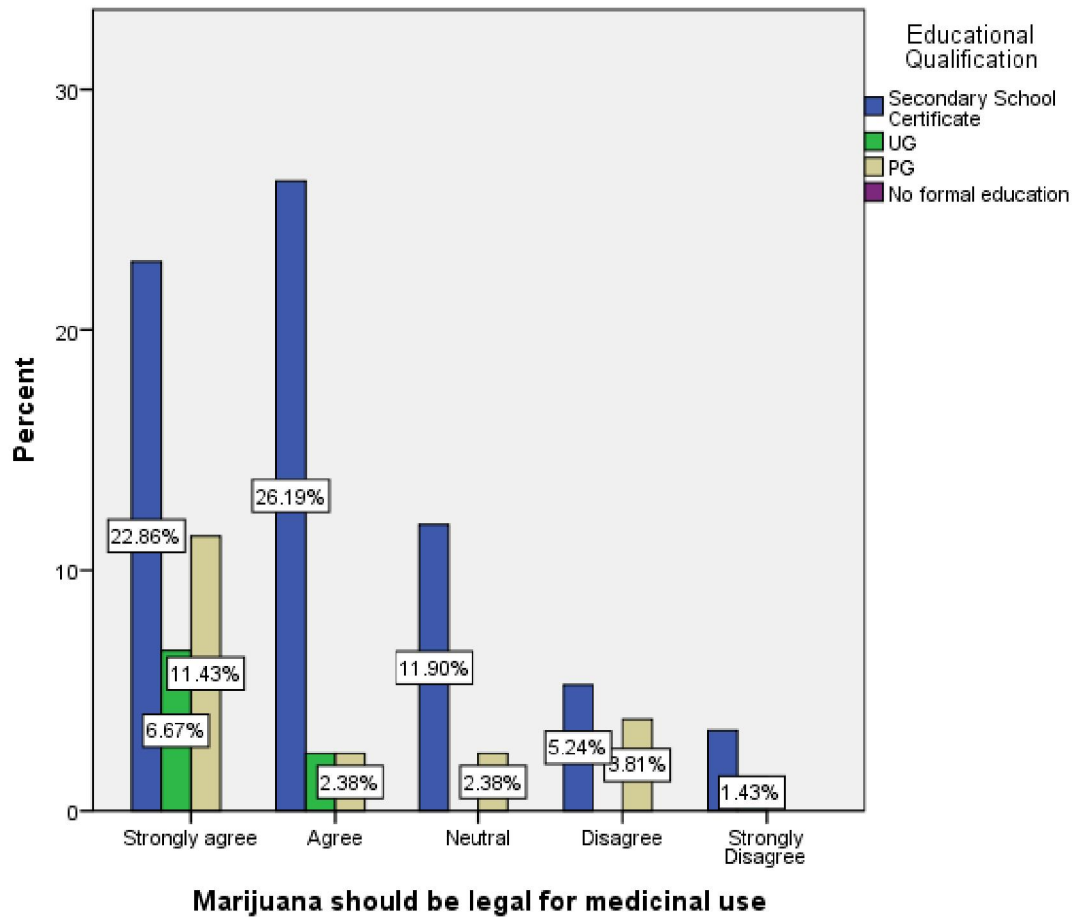


Legend:

Figure 8 represents the educational qualification distribution and their opinion on how recreational marijuana affects those recovering from addictions from other drugs.



Figure 9

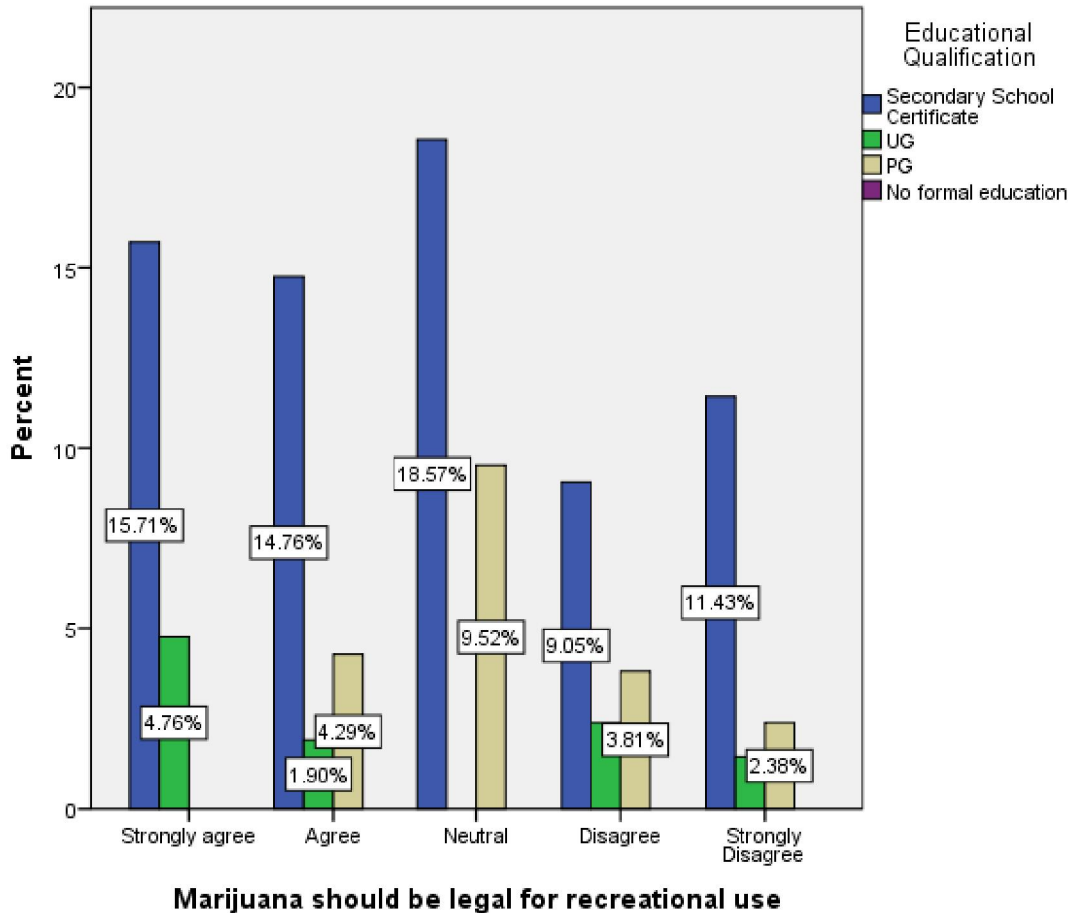


Legend:

Figure 9 represents the educational qualification distribution of the sample population and their opinion on if marijuana should be made legal for medicinal use.



Figure 10



Legend:

Figure 10 represents the educational qualification distribution of the sample population and their opinion on if marijuana should be made legal for recreational use.

IV. RESULTS

The majority of the respondents from all of the age groups, especially from the age group 18 - 25 think that there is indeed a need to legalize drugs (Fig 1). The combined majority of the respondents from all of the age groups think that drugs are not a good recreational activity with a majority of about 55.71% in total (Fig 2). The majority from all of the age groups think that recreational marijuana does indeed help those who are recovering from addictions from other drug addictions (Fig 3).

The majority from all of the age groups strongly agree that marijuana should definitely be legalized for medical purposes while only a few oppose this (Fig 4). The respondents seem to have a biased opinion on if marijuana should be made legal for recreational use and hence the majority have responded with “neutral” slightly leaning towards the agreeing side (Fig 5). The majority of the respondents, mainly influenced by males think that drugs should be legalized, but when taking only the females into account, they think that drugs, in general should not be legalized (Fig 6).



The majority of the respondents from all of the educational qualification groups, especially from the age group 18 - 25 think that there is indeed a need to legalize drugs (Fig 7). The majority from all of the educational qualification groups think that recreational marijuana does indeed help those who are recovering from addictions from other drug addictions (Fig 8). The majority from all of the educational qualification groups strongly agree that marijuana should definitely be legalized for medical purposes while only a few oppose this (Fig 9). The respondents seem to have a biased opinion on if marijuana should be made legal for recreational use and hence the majority have responded with “neutral” slightly leaning towards the agreeing side (Fig 10).

V. DISCUSSION

According to this graph, it is clearly seen that the majority of the respondents think that there is a need to legalize drugs, with a majority of responses from the age group 18 - 25 influencing the choice with the maximum percentage of 54.76% followed by a combined responses of about 18.09% from the age groups 26- 35 and 36 - 45 (Fig 1). In this graph, it is seen that the overall majority from all the age groups think that drugs aren't a good recreational activity, but considering each age group individually, the age group 18 - 25 independently, with a majority of 36.19% think that drugs are a good recreational activity, but a combined majority of about 55.72% think otherwise (Fig 2). According to this graph, the majority of the respondents with about 26.68% think that recreational marijuana is indeed useful in recovering patients who are addicted to other drugs and about 23.81% think that it is not useful (Fig 3).

According to this graph, the majority of the respondents either strongly agree or agree when asked if marijuana should be legal for medical use with a majority of 39.95% strongly agreeing and about 30.95% agree to this. Only a small amount of respondents think otherwise (Fig 4). In this graph, it is seen that the majority of the respondents of about 28.3% have a neutral opinion when asked if marijuana should be legal for recreational use, while the others seem to slightly lean towards agreeing as about a combined 41.43% agree and strongly agree while the other few disagree or strongly disagree (Fig 5). According to this graph, the majority of the total respondents think that there is a need to legalize drugs with the leading responses from men while considering them individually, women in general think that there is no need to legalize drugs (Fig 6).

According to this graph, the majority of all the respondents think that there is a need to legalize drugs with a combined majority of about 72.86% think that it is necessary which is influenced by the age group secondary school certificate as they have the most responses in this of about 50%. Only a combined responses of about 27.14% who say there won't be a need to legalize drugs (Fig 7). According to this graph, the combined majority from all the age groups think that recreational marijuana is indeed useful in recovery of those who are addicted to other drugs while a considerate amount of respondents also think otherwise (Fig 8). According to this graph, the majority of the respondents from all of the age groups think that medical marijuana should be legal as about 71.91% of the total respondents have voted so while only the other few respondents think otherwise (Fig 9). In this graph, it is seen that about 29.09% of the total respondents from all educational qualifications have voted neutral to when asked marijuana should be legal for recreational use showing their biased opinion while the rest seem to slightly lean towards agreeing as there are more respondents agreeing than disagreeing (Fig 10).

Limitations:

One of the major limitations of the study is the sample frame. It had been a major setback as the surveys had to be carried out online which most people would feel was just extra work and would simply ignore it. Another limitation is the sample size of 210 which cannot be used to assume the thinking of the entire population in a particular country, state or city. The physical factors have a larger impact, thus limiting the study.

VI. CONCLUSION

Based on the results of the analysis done, it's been found that drugs in general, that is depressants, stimulants or narcotics all contain certain properties that either relieve pain or help to increase brain function, but are to be consumed only when prescribed by a professional, and is advised to be done under supervision. We have branded drugs as corrupt or sinful, which is not the case at all times. Cannabis, specifically is known to treat bipolar disorder, autism, depression,



schizophrenia and about 40+ more conditions or diseases if taken under proper medications. Therefore, it would be wise to consider legalizing these drugs.

Suggestion:

Legalization or decriminalization of drugs would not only help the medical field so much by replacing prescribed drugs in most cases, but also it would help in the eradication of trafficking of drugs and selling drugs through the black market. Once all the drugs have been made legal, people won't have the need to buy drugs of cheap quality which might ruin their health and also for high rated prices and it would be taken directly under the control of the government, so there won't be any other places where they would want to buy them. Not only this, legalization would mean that the crime rates of the state or the country would reduce by a ton and people won't be arrested for possession of drugs anymore.

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