

Cannabis legalisation

In this essay, I will discuss the issue of whether cannabis should be legalised.

Cannabis is a drug that is currently in the spotlight in the UK. It has been recently been reclassified from a class C drug to a class B in January 2009. In fact, cannabis is the most commonly used illegal drug in the United Kingdom. The numbers of cannabis users in the UK is gradually rising, as a direct result, arguments about cannabis legalisation have occurred. However, this is contradicted by the argument that this drug can be dangerous in many different ways.

There are various street names for cannabis such as marijuana, dope, pot, grass, weed, Mary Jane, doobie, bud, ganja, hashish, hash, bhang. The drug is originally cultivated from the cannabis sativa (marijuana) plant; which although primarily grown in north and South America can also be harvested in British climate under the right conditions. When smoked cannabis gives users a feeling of light-headedness and euphoria, which can last up to 3 hours.

One particular argument for the legalisation of cannabis is that it is one of the effective painkillers on the face of the earth. This has been proven to be a great benefit to the treatment of certain medical conditions such as the eye disease known as glaucoma. It has also helped to significantly relieve the symptoms of sufferers of multiple sclerosis and arthritis.

However using it to relieve pain is also a criminal offence. It is illegal to possess cannabis no matter what you are using it for is illegal. Politicians claim that the drug does more harm in the long term. There is no proven link to suggest cannabis brings on the symptoms of mental illnesses, under the influence of weed people are likely to lose control and this could lead up to committing a crime to feed an addiction. It can cause mood swings, paranoia, restlessness and even physical harm in large amounts.

Although campaigners explain that in over 10,000 years of man's usage, cannabis has never killed anyone directly. Incidentally even the Buddha is foretold to use it to help meditate. They say that even though all drugs have the potential to harm there are more dangerous drugs available legally in the UK, currently. Protestors claim that cannabis is less dangerous than both alcohol and tobacco, and that society would be inconsistent if it condemns cannabis use.

Opposers believe in the long run cannabis is a far more dangerous drug than any of the legal drugs available today. It contains more than 400 chemicals including the dangerous main psychoactive ingredient 'thc'. As cannabis can affect lethargy and reaction time, driving and operating machinery can prove fatal. Cannabis consists of a significantly larger amount of tobacco than tar. This can quickly lead to lung cancer.

My personal opinion is that citizens under rare cases should legalize cannabis for use. Such as if a dying woman is in pain cannabis should be used to ease the pain before the time of death. Also I believe, it could also be permissible to allow cannabis for home personal use only which should be sold in very small amounts whilst being discouraged. The strictest law enforcement must then be alternatively given to smokers in public places, streets and buses.

Others may disagree with my personal opinion because they believe weed should not be used under any circumstances. They suggest users will become physically addicted and cause havoc to surrounding people.

I held this opinion, as I am not completely against users of cannabis. As I know for a fact there, a genuine number of people around the world this could prove to be a miracle to. However the majority of cannabis users currently use it for unviable reasons, but I do not think they should stop people using it for pain relief.

If cannabis becomes legalized 2 opposite outcomes can happen;
Either a similar situation to Amsterdam can occur where cannabis will only be sold in tolerance zones, so it is off the streets and away from children. If it becomes government controlled it would be a much cleaner product.

On the other hand, it could cause a catastrophe, as it is a known fact most dealers get people on cannabis before trying to sell them something stronger. It could send out the wrong message to young people, who it should be kept away from. In addition, if it were legalised there would be an even bigger blackmarket for the stuff, which will be very dangerous.

If increased fines and sentencing were put in place. I personally believe it will make no difference to the number of cannabis smokers in the UK. There will always be a large black market for widely available cannabis. However, cannabis will not then be smoked in public as much as now. I predict cannabis will increase for personal use as anxiety and stress levels are gradually increasing over British citizens.