



Legalisation of Cannabis



There are many arguments in numerous countries across the world about the legalisation of cannabis. This is a highly controversial argument in the eyes of many and there are many legitimate reasons for and against the legalisation of this drug. There have been, in some countries the legalisation of medical cannabis for its oils to combat the effects of epilepsy, and in a small handful the complete legalisation of cannabis use for recreational purposes. But this can cause some problems. One of these is not only that cannabis rots the brain, damages the lungs and heart, but it dramatically increases the risks of mental health issues to its users, which include depression.

Furthermore, in cases such as Canada, where cannabis is legal, there have been major issues with supplies of the drugs as many people began using it after legalisation. Studies show the up to 10% of all cannabis users become totally dependent on the drug and legalising it may encourage younger people to become addicted. In addition, there are many issues with the use of cannabis as a gateway drug leading to more hardcore drugs such as heroin and crack cocaine. The reason for this is because of a chemical called tetrahydrocannabinol or (THC). This is a strongly potent chemical that has become a rising presence in modern cannabis with levels as high as 30% and this chemical has been shown to cause psychosis. However, there has been another chemical called CBD that counters the effects of THC. But, as CBD doesn't make the consumer high, producers have reduced the levels of CBD in cannabis dramatically.

On the contrary, legalising cannabis would allow for the controlling of the levels of CBD and THC. In countries where cannabis is illegal, there are usually only very strong, high potent cannabis available. As the drug is unregulated, suppliers will add more THC to raise their selling prices and therefore profit. This creates a major problem because of unregulated issues that legalisation may otherwise solve. Additionally, the use of legal drugs would allow users to be helped with their drugs problems by being referred to doctors rather than being punished for their crimes which in some cases can make their addiction worse. This has been shown in Portugal, where in 2001 all drugs were legal, resulting in the launch of major healthcare campaigns, funded by the government, to help these drug abusers. And it worked. The statistics show that the number of people who tried and kept using drugs fell by 16% and HIV related deaths, from the use of needles, fell from 1016 cases to 56 cases.

Further, the overdose-related deaths fell from 80 cases to 16 cases. This clearly shows that if tackled properly, the use of drugs and especially cannabis can be helped and reduced. Finally, the legalisation of cannabis can offer the taxation of it. In the United States, it's estimated that if cannabis was legalised, then over \$18 billion of cannabis tax could be collected annually. This extra revenue could be reinvested into the safety and regulation of cannabis making it further safer for users.

Points to Consider:

- To what extent will cannabis be legalised? Will it be restricted to medical use only?
- Will your resolution enforce any regulations on the safety of the drug? If so, think about how you will enforce these regulations?
- Will there be designated areas to smoke cannabis? Will it be confined to private areas or will it be legal to smoke in all areas?

- Will there be an age limit to the legal use of cannabis?
- Will there be laws to stop the consumption of cannabis in an enclosed space with people under a certain age limit?

Useful Links:

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kP15q8155Saw>
- <https://www.debatindeurope.eu/focus/arguments-legalising-cannabis/#.XAKjTbH7TIU>