



Cannabis Usage as a Social Violence factor among Rural Youth: Special Reference to Monaragala District

H.G.R.I. Jayasooriya¹

¹University of Kelaniya.

Abstract

The main objective of this study is identifying the cannabis usage as a social violence factor among rural youth through the relationship between cannabis users and violence. This study employed the mixed method design which is combination of qualitative and quantitative approach to collect and analyze data. The results of this research had been shown that 22 (55%) of participants out of 40 cannabis users were youth in between the 15-24 years old. Majority of participants were made violent actions as the results of addiction to cannabis use and 67.5% were low educated. Especially amid those with different mental stages. The data which was collected through professionals showed that cannabis users who were addict ton cannabis were behaved aggressively, they had used violent actions while earn money for cannabis use. And, lots of cannabis users were adolescents. As the conclusion, the study examined that the cannabis use is associated with violence in different mental stages. It was different from person to person. A person who use cannabis since long-term, he is also associated with violence in different aspects than other cannabis users as well.

Introduction

Nowadays, cannabis is highly affected on school children and youth in society. Cannabis use mainly target individuals between the ages of 13-19, as it is the age children are more vulnerable and compel teenagers to get addicted to substances. On speaking to 20 individuals from the ages of 18-27, 17 of total 20 individuals admitted to using cannabis as an alternative to cigarettes (Mary Catherine Clarke, Helen Coughlan and Mary Cannon, 2019). Whether increased cannabis use will ultimately affect violence and crime rates. Specially, in the Monaragala District, cannabis use enhances the likelihood of engaging in violent and properly crimes and other forms of serious delinquent behavior. In this study, the researcher wanted to examine the major issue of cannabis use as a social violence factor among rural youth. In this case, the violence can be taken place in many ways as family conflicts, youth violence, interpersonal violence and so on.

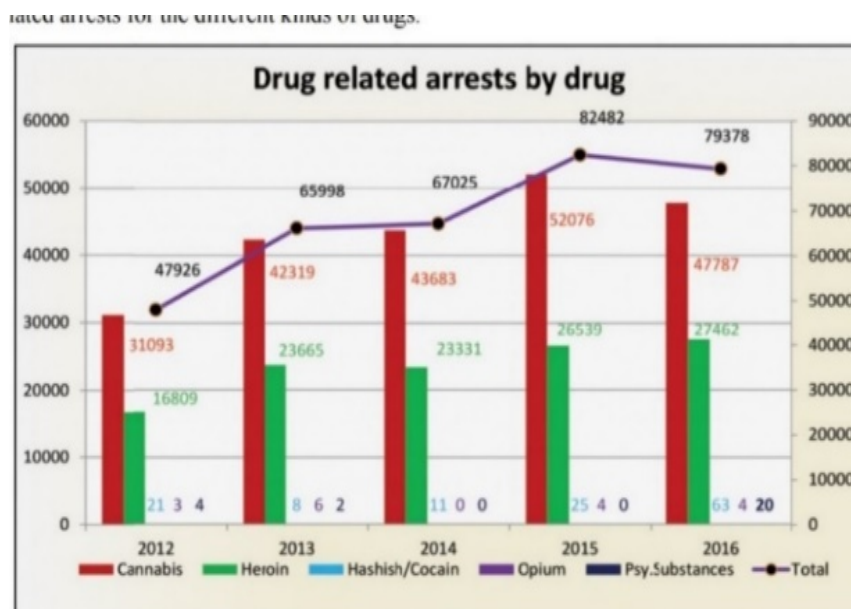
If anyone is engaging cannabis use, it causes to shirk them from society with their entire family. It leads toward huge social conflicts. Furthermore, cannabis intoxication results in panic reactions and paranoid feelings whose symptoms lead to violence. Nowadays, cannabis use and trade is done by youth. They want to continue and success their trading. Therefore, they use many violent ways to success their trading. On the other hand, cannabis users wanted to earn money for use cannabis in any way. Therefore, cannabis use as well as cannabis trade has become a social violence factor due to lots of causes among rural youth. In the mid 1930's cannabis was considered as the "killer weeds" in the United States and assumptions that cannabis use and trade caused violence contributed to the Marihuana Tax Act in 1937 which radically limited legal access to cannabis. The cannabis is the most widely used illicit drug in most part of the world and most people who used cannabis do so in adolescent or young adulthood. The majority of studies suggested that cannabis use and trade increase the risk of social violence. The literature suggests several mechanisms that may underlie a possible causal link between cannabis trade and violence (Abel, 1997). According to Williams, there is a connection of various drugs to armed conflicts, whether cocaine, cannabis or opium into one singular category of drugs. Secondary evidence, for example, he suggested that the link between cannabis and armed conflict around the world and those between cannabis trade and harder substance and violence.

The use of cannabis to violence has gained particular notoriety and is seen in many circles as partly responsible for the acts of violence against women that the DRC, cited by UN officials as the "worst place to be a woman" and "the rape capital of the world" has become infamous for. According to the report by International Trade Union Confederation 2013, cannabis consumption 'diminishes moral responsibility and increases violent tendencies' which many organizations include the international NGO Woman under Siege, contend 'fuels much of the sexualized violence committed in the DRC' (Hall W, Johnston L, 1998). Within the Sri Lanka, mostly in rural areas, the youth have low level of education. They highly addicted to drugs since their childhood. Then they are engaging trading cannabis and using cannabis. The lots of cannabis traders use violent acts to earn high profit. Considerable evidence suggested that student who smoke cannabis have poorer educational outcomes than nonsmoking or non-trading peers. Most of them are attempted to suicide. Today, cannabis is mostly used by the younger generation. They are mostly unemployed. Therefore, the youth have to pay money to buy cannabis if they want. When the unemployed youth haven't money, sometimes they engaging theft, dacoit, even someone fighting with their parents those can be end with a murder also (Duncan, 2017)

On the other hand, psychologically, youth are aggressive. When they want to do something, they will try to get it in any way. In this case, if someone want to use cannabis, they use it any way. That is the reason to increase the violent within society related to rural youth. Not only that, the lots of studies have also suggested specific links between cannabis and adverse consequences in the workplace, such as increased risks for injury and accidents. One study among postal workers found that employees who tested positive for cannabis on a pre-employment urine drug test had 55% more industrial accidents, 85% more injuries, and 75% greater absenteeism compared with those who tested negative for cannabis use.

A 2012 paper in the Journal of Interpersonal Violence examining a federal survey of more than 9,000 adolescents found that cannabis trade associated with a doubling of domestic violence in

the US. A 2017 paper in the Journal Social Psychiatry and Psychiatric Epidemiology examining drivers of violence among 6,000 British and Chinese men found that cannabis use was linked to fivefold increase in violence. The following figure 1 shows the drug related arrests for the different kind of drugs in Si Lanka (Ismaq Lebbe Mohammad Mahir and Wazeema Thaseem, 2020)



Source: Handbook of drug abuse information

Figure 1. Drug related arrests

Cannabis user's risk of offending is also confirmed by a meta- analysis that investigated the connection between drug use and crime. (Bennett,T, Holloway,K, and Farrington, 2008). According to the Willy and Torbjorn (Willy Pedersen & Torbjorn Skardhamar, 2009), the aim of the study was to examine the association between cannabis use drug adolescence and young adulthood and subsequent criminal changes. A population-based sample was followed from 13 to 27 years of age. The study suggest that cannabis use in adolescence and early childhood may be associated with subsequent involvement in criminal activity. Scholars also argue that it is the systematic nature of illicit cannabis (marijuana) market that causes violent crimes. According to the Aalen, Goldstein (Aalen, 2013), (Goldstein, 1985), there are ample demand for marijuana and abundant profitable opportunities associated with marijuana businesses, the prohibition of this substance gives risk to black market. When we are discussing about the cannabis as a social violence factor, the injuries which are occurred based on the cannabis in an important. According to the Gregorio, Eladio and Jose (Gregorio Barrio, Eladio and Jose Pulido, 2012), assess the association between cannabis use and unintended non-fatal injuries. In this study, cross sectional data were collected from a nationwide sample of 27,934 subject surveyed in Spain: 14,699 persons aged 15-34 years and 13,225 aged 35-64 years. This study highlights the cannabis users showed an increased frequency of NITs, especially among the adult population (35-64 years). The Price (Price JW, 2014), to investigate the association between cannabis use and occupational injury, urine samples collected from individuals working in the United States who had experienced an occupational injury were tested for the presence of cannabis metabolites and were compared to samples collected from individuals selected for a random employee drug test.

According to this research, 95% was successes. Several studies report that unintentional pediatric cannabis exposure is associated with potentially serious symptoms, including respiratory depression or failure, tachycardia and other cardiovascular symptoms, and temporary coma. Similar symptoms were not reported in adults exposed to cannabis.

A historical cohort study by (ML Chipma, Scort Macdonald and Robert E Mann, 2003) is aimed to compare association of alcohol, cannabis and cocaine abuse and traffic crashes risk. First, there are some additional questions to be addressed related to characteristics of the data, the design of the study and the interpretation of the results. According to the study, the comparable rates for post-treatment intervals as follow.

Table 1.Rates of post-treatment intervals

Group	Crashes* per 100 driver-years	Convictions per 100 driver-years	“At fault” crashes per 100 driver-years
Control	5.29	13.57	2.00
Alcohol only	2.88	8.59	1.37
Cannabis only	5.60	19.89	2.10
Cocaine only	4.08	23.99	1.60
Alcohol and cannabis	3.33	10.28	1.43
Alcohol and cocaine	3.40	10.98	1.78
Cannabis and cocaine	3.72	20.84	2.17
All three	1.90	12.63	0.81

Source: (ML Chipma, Scort Macdonald and Robert E Mann, 2003)

As the key points of the study, they pointed that before starting treatment for substance abuse, users of cocaine and cannabis had significantly elevated crash risks, compared to control drivers. Cannabis usage also caused to make negative health effects. It leads towards the violence.

According to the Linzen, Dingemans and Lenior (DH Linszen, Dingemans and Lenior, 1994) , the association between cannabis use and mental health outcomes and disorders has been well documented. Although research suggests that depressed individuals are more likely to use cannabis and that use associated with an increased likelihood of anxiety, depression and suicide attempts. The Patton et al (GC Patton, Caffey, Carlin, Lynskey , 2002), a cohort study in Australia that followed adolescent students (aged 14-15 years old) for 7 years found an association between frequent cannabis use and the development of anxiety and depression. While 60% of participants has use cannabis by the age of 20, as frequency of cannabis use increased so did the prevalence of anxiety and depression. According to the Samuel, Elina and Robert (2015), marijuana use in associated with worse outcomes in symptom severity and violent behavior in patients with PTSD. They found that, after adjusting for relevant baseline covariates, marijuana use was significantly associated with worse outcomes in PTSD symptom severity, violent behavior and measures of alcohol and drug use. The study done by Heather, Richard, Carmen and Amy (2017) which used data are limited on the behavioral risk correlates of synthetic

cannabinoid use. According to the study, students who ever used synthetic cannabinoid had a significantly greater likelihood of engaging in each of the behaviors in the substance use and sexual risk domain compared with students who ever used marijuana only. Therefore, the results of the study examined the health professionals and school-based substance use prevention program should include strategies focused on the prevention of cannabinoids and marijuana. The study on marijuana and interpersonal violence by Todd and Gregory (2005), the present review examines the available empirical and theoretical literature on the relationship between marijuana and violence, the link between marijuana use and interpersonal violence and the relationship between marijuana withdrawal and violence. However, according to my idea this study is proposed a new biopsychosocial model of marijuana-violence relationship.

In Macdonald’s view (S Macdonald, Anglin Borung, Mamm, 2003), the role of cannabis use is controversial, unlike the data on cannabis, for example, whose role as a risk factor in violent behavior is much clearer. Some authors of Bates, Blakely (MN Bates, TA Blakley, 1999) have not identified clear evidence of a correlation between cannabis use and violent behavior. Hadorn (Hardon, 1997), cannabis is rarely implicated in violent behaviors. These effects were described by Ames. They consist of a feeling of relaxation and euphoria. According to the Chiara et al (Chiara Condeli, Felice Carabellese, Domenico Martinelli, 2013), the cannabis use is related with the violent behavior as follow.

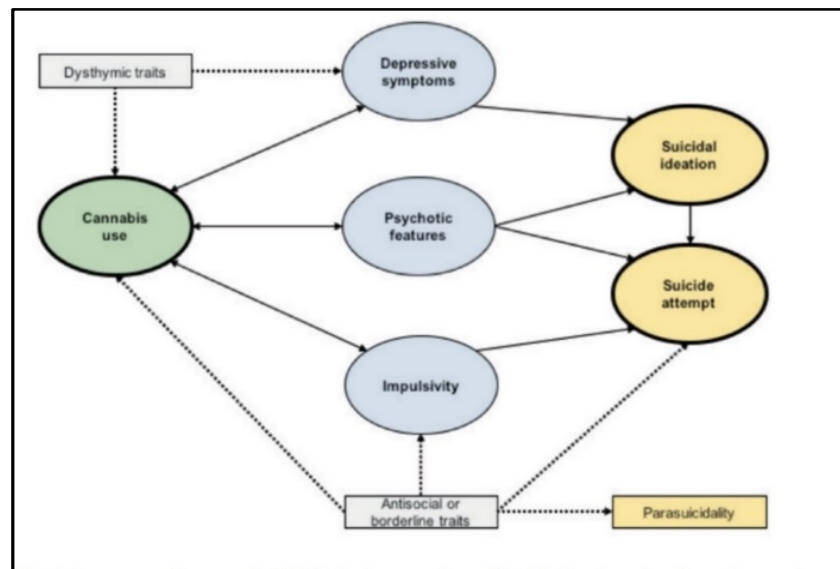
Table 2. Violent behavior inflicted on others

Violent behavior inflicted on others	
Verbal violence	53.6%
Maltreatment	39.8%
Injuries by assaults	14.5%
Injuries with blunt objects	2.9%
Injuries with firearms	0.7%
Others	0.7%

Table 3. Self-inflicted violent behavior

Self-inflicted violent behavior	
Attempted suicide	70.9%
Suicide	7.5%
Self-inflicted injury	23.9%
Other	0.7%

According to these data, the study examined that there is a capability to make violent behaviors within the cannabis users. Most of those things are self-related violent behavior. Those are highly harmful to the individuals. And there may be direct and undirect harm to the others within the society.



Cannabis use and suicidal behavior are causes of adolescent morbidity and mortality worldwide. The Brook (Brook, 2001) has shown that cannabis use for at least one year has resulted in social withdrawal, anxiety and depression with suicidal thoughts in adolescents, and has reported a few times likelihood for depression and anxiety among female adolescents and a two-fold increase among male adolescents. Some studies suggest that cannabis use is associated with suicidal ideation, but no detailed longitudinal study has examined suicide as an outcome. The study on cannabis abuse and serious suicide attempts done by Annette, Peter and Roger (Annette L Beautrais, Peter R Joyce and Roger T Mulder, 1999) aims to compare the relationship between cannabis dependence and risk of medically serious suicide attempts. These results suggested that much of the association between cannabis abuse and suicide attempt risk arose because:

- a) Individuals who develop cannabis abuse tend to come from disadvantaged socio-demographic and childhood background which independently of cannabis abuse, are associated with higher risk of suicide attempts.
- b) Because cannabis abuse is co-morbid with other mental disorders which are independently associated with suicide behaviors.

According to the study by Bartoili, Lev, Crocama and Carra (F Bartoli, Lev-Ran, Crocama and G Carra, 2018), they conducted a narrative review, summarizing main epidemiological data from longitudinal studies, on the potential association between cannabis use and suicidal behaviors. Figure 2.2: Relationship between cannabis use and suicide behavior

According to the Elisaldo, Charles, Sergio (Elisaldo Araujo Carlini, Charles Julian Lindsey, Sergio Tufik, 1997), the study shows that cannabis induces aggressive behavior in rates that have been deprived of rapid eye movement (REM) sleep. It was suggested that this effect was related to brain catecholamines, with dopamine playing an agonist role and noradrenaline an inhibitory one. Taken together they emphasize the participation of brain dopamine and noradrenaline systems in the aggressive behavior studied.

According to the Milani, Andrew, Fabrizio (RM Milani, Andrew C Parrott, Fabrizio Schifano, 2005), the aim of this study was to explore self-reported psychobiological problems in ecstasy

polydrug users in relation to their pattern of cannabis use. They examined about the aggressive behavior of cannabis users. In conclusion, moderate cannabis use may help to ameliorate or mask MDMA-induced aggressively and somatic symptoms. However, this study confirms that heavy cannabis and ecstasy use is associated with several psychological problems, including aggressive.

Methods

The research area of this study was investigating cannabis use as a social violence factor among rural youth which used for research study. This study was based on Monaragala District (Okkampitiya Police Division) which is geographical area of this study.

As the sample of this study, the researcher can be mentioned as Monaragala District. The reason to select this research area to sample for, 1. Rural youth lived in this particular district 2. Cannabis plays a role as a social violence factor within district 3. Since the researcher has used convenience sampling method, it is easy to reach this particular geographical area. This study employed the mixed method design which is combination of qualitative and quantitative approach to collect and analyze data. The first part of the study consisted of a series of well-structured questionnaires and structured interviews. Quantitative approach was used to collect numerical data from the cannabis users (Okkampitiya Police Division). Qualitative approach was used to collect data from policemen in Okkampitiya Police Station, Excise Department professionals (Monaragala) and school principles (Monaragala District). Total population of the study was 50 people; to respond the questionnaire in this study, it was selected 40 civilians who were used cannabis in Okkampitiya area, Monaragala District. In this way, the researcher will consider their educational level, age etc.

Another 10 people were selected to respond for structured interviews, and it included five different categories of people; 1) Three Policemen from Okkampitiya Police Station, 2) three of Gramaniladhari in Okkampitiya Division 3) three Excise Department professionals 4) one doctor in District Hospital, Monaragala.

Moreover, this study will collect both primary and secondary data. Primary data is data that is collected by a researcher from himself, using methods like surveys, interviews, observations etc. A research questionnaire and interviews are a mixed of both close-ended and open-ended questions. The researcher has been selected 40 cannabis users to respond all questions in the questionnaire as individually. 10 respondents were interviewed. Because many issues, researcher had to select data through the phone interviews. All interviews were conducted in Sinhala language. Secondary data for this study was review of previous studies, books, magazines, newspapers, journal reports, police reports, Gramaniladhari reports, reports from Excise Department (Monaragala Branch) and so on. In here, the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) was used for analyzing the quantitative data. Qualitative data was presented in a content form.

There are few limitations to conduct the research study; language barriers, respondents are reluctant to provide data if it is sensitive and someone always try to hidden the information, covid 19 situation and so on.

While conducting the study, the researcher ensured informed consent from all participants. Prior to the commencement of each interview, the participants were told of the length of time involved with the interview and sufficient time was allowed before and after the interview for the participant to ask any questions relating to the research topic. Except from the above, participants were not harmed or abused, both physically and psychologically, during the conduction of the research. In contrast, the researcher attempted to create and maintain a climate of comfort.

Data Analysis

Quantitative Data Analysis and Interpretation

The study was done around the cannabis users. Those are also male. Therefore, there is no gender base differences among respondents. Through them, 22 (55%) cannabis users were in the age category of 15-24 years old. (*Source: Field survey 2021*). It is clear that maximum number of cannabis users in between 15-24 age category. Those are also youth people. The frequency of respondents of cannabis users in Okkampitiya area have been given in following chart.

Chart 1. Percentage of cannabis users according to their age, education level

		Educational level			Total
		o/l pass or below	a/l pass	certificate courses or diploma	
Age	Below 15 years old	5	0	0	5
	15-24 years old	16	5	1	22
	25-34 years old	4	2	1	7
	Above 34 years old	2	1	3	6
Total		27	8	5	40

Source: Field survey 2021

In above chart, the researcher mixed responses of their age, educational level and civil status as well. In this section, the researcher sought to find out whether lots of cannabis users in between the age of 15-24 years old and their education level category was “o/l pass or below”. The researcher found that most of cannabis users are low educated people. Through all cannabis users, 27 respondents are low educated. Out of them, 16 cannabis users included the age category of 15-24 years old. One of the important points that there are cannabis users below 15 years old, that is 05 out of 40. It explains that the cannabis users are youth people. There is no any cannabis user who are in the educational level of degree level. When considered about the people’s attitude on cannabis use, data shows that most of cannabis users think that cannabis use makes fun, that is 25 out of 40. The percentage is 62.5%. On the other hand, 20% cannabis users have an opinion as cannabis use is essential. Only 6 out of 40 has an opinion of cannabis use make violence in society. Therefore, it is clear that, the respondents who have a thought that cannabis use as positive. That may be a reason which cause to spread cannabis users within the area. And, the frequency of 27 out of 40 responded as they have physical or mental problems as the results of cannabis use. As the percentage it is 62.5%. Therefore, it explains that cannabis use effects on human body negatively. As a percentage, 17.5% marked that they are suffering heart diseases 7.5% have all of these physical and mental difficulties. These data explain that the frequency of

10 respondents use cannabis because they find fun from cannabis use. As a percentage, it is 25%. And also, frequency of 9 respondents, out of 40 responded that they use cannabis because personal problems. They use cannabis as a solution for own problems. The important thing is that, 15% respondents use cannabis because they have been missed their education. The study examined that through those cannabis users, that 47.5% make conflicts with neighbors. And on the other hand, 37.5% had start to use other drugs. It is really cause to make violence within own self and society. 15% have been engaged with other relationships.

Out of 40, 37.5% cannabis users engaged conflicts with friends, 17.5% make conflicts with wives, 7.5% make conflicts with own children and 20% make conflicts with sisters/ brothers as well. Therefore, it is clear that cannabis use makes violence within the family. Then it may lead to make violence within the society. And also, the researcher investigated that the conflict which are made by cannabis users have been increased because many reasons. The frequency of 19 mentioned as the cause to increased violence is “lack of patient”. After use cannabis, it causes to make physical changes and increased aggression which are caused to make violence. In hypothetical analysis,

$H_0: \mu=6$

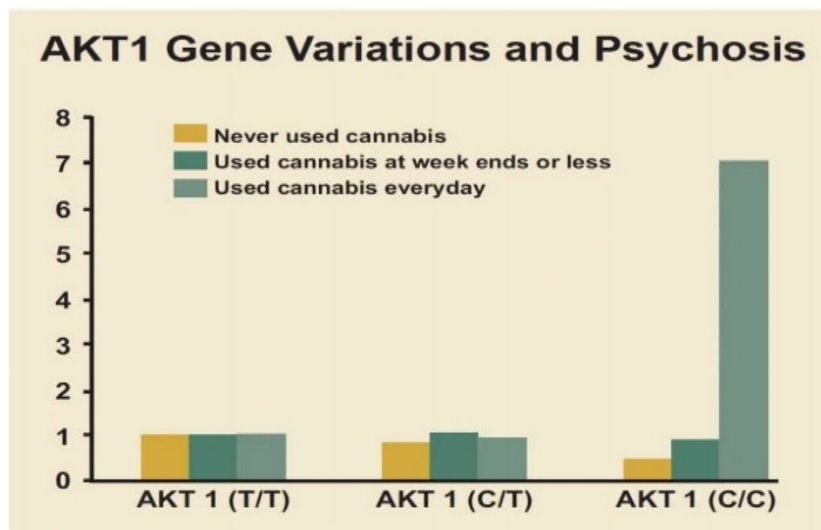
$H_1: \mu>6$

After one sample t-test, the researcher claimed that p value is 0.000. it is less than significance level of 0.05. Therefore, researcher reject the null hypothesis. The, accept the alternative hypothesis. ($H_1: \mu>6$). Therefore, under the significance level people who were surveyed given the results that cannabis uses as a social violence factor among rural youth.

Qualitative Data Analysis and Interpretation

The researcher examined data interviews through structured interviewed with respondents from police officers in Okkampitiya Police Division, professionals in Excise Department (Monaragala Branch), Gramaniladhari and a doctor. According to the statement of OIC of the excise department (respondent 1), the youth people first start to smoke cigarettes. Then they engaged in cannabis use. The respondent 2 (other professional of excise department) stated that, youth are used cannabis based on fun and then it converted as a trend. Both of these statements confirmed that cannabis users are youth people. The researcher has found several reasons which are caused to use cannabis of rural youth. The respondent 1 who was the OIC of the excise department shared his ideas which were gathered through his experiences. He stated several reasons as “*I think, the biggest reason is the controversy over cannabis use. Mostly, it was made by cannabis traders for their business purposes*”, “*Another one is, who smoke cigarette is cause to use cannabis*”, “*The hero of the children in our villages is their father. So, if father use cannabis, their children also motivate to use cannabis.*” According to the respondent 5, not only the lack of education, but also fun and un- employment are also caused to use cannabis. According to the respondent 7’s (Gramaniladhari) view of point, it is somewhat similar to the opinion of respondent 1. And, he pointed a new thing as ‘imitation’ as a cause that youth people turn to cannabis use. It is also important. Rural youth are always spent time as groups, not individuals. Then, they always try to imitate others in their group. According to the respondent 10(a doctor),

he also pointed the main reason for use cannabis as lack of education or missed education. However, according to the respondent 10, there are lot of negative effects cannabis on cannabis user's health. In his statement, the doctor mentioned that the AKT 1 and cannabis relate to the psychosis. He proved his idea through follow figure.



According to his opinions, some of the short-term and long-term negative effects are impaired memory, increased heart rate, impaired attention, judgment, and other cognitive functions, make the risk of chronic cough and so on. And he pointed that cannabis use cause to increase the lung health as well. And, according to him, cannabis use also make physical differences as well. Because cannabis use, it may cause to make heart attacks, the people fainting and falls. And, their growth process is also decrease, because that they become thin than others. If anyone use cannabis long time, as a result, they may become aggressive people as well.

The researcher has investigated that there are many types of conflicts occurred because cannabis use. According to the respondent 5(Sub Inspector of Okkampitiya Police), he discussed mostly about the family conflicts with violence. It is a huge problem in rural areas. According to respondent 1, violence can be seen when civil persons reported to police about cannabis users. They fight with them. It is a popular factor of violence in the research area. And, he mentioned about the domestic violence as well. According to respondent 9, the rural youth are engaged underage marriages than others. Because they engaged hard work, they get cannabis and the they addict to it. The respondent 9 (a Gramaniladhari) also agreed with the opinion of respondent 1 about the family conflicts as well. In addition to that, he mentioned about some violent actions which are made by cannabis users as theft and robbery. Those are the common and popular social problems within this research area. The respondent 10, clearly explained about the relationship between cannabis user's mental situation and violent behaviors. According to his opinion, conflicts arise with cannabis users when they find money to use cannabis. If the cannabis user uses any other drugs, it caused to increase the conflicts that cannabis users are involved. And he mentioned that cannabis use causes to make some criminal behaviors like theft and make lower life satisfaction as well. He mentioned that cannabis users are tried to committed suicide. It is very much popular young people than other cannabis users.

According to the respondent 1, cannabis addicted people are more violate than other. But, the respondent 4 made different idea regarding to respondent 1. The respondent 10 also agree with respondent 1 but they made different ideas about that. according to respondent 1, cannabis addicted people are violated because they cannot live without cannabis. The respondent 4's opinion was non-addicted cannabis users are engaged conflicts with others for their need to use cannabis. The respondent 10 said that addicted people are more violate because their mental and physical disorders also cause to conflicts in different ways and levels. Therefore, it is clear that, both of these parts of cannabis addicted youth and non-addicted youth are violated. They deal with conflicts. So, the researcher can conclude that if the person is addicted or not to cannabis use are also violent. Through the statements of interviewees, according to the respondent 1, if parents give their attention on children, we can reduce or control their engagement in cannabis use at early time. Respondent 8 He proposed that through give the well awareness, we can reduce the youth involvement with cannabis use. The respondent 10 who was a doctor proposed, introducing new self-employment opportunities can reduce their engagement in cannabis. And, he mentioned that re-structured the modern rules and regulations regard to the cannabis related offences and make new rules for them as a solution for this social issue. Finally, all of the statements of interviewer's have been made different type of solutions to reduce or control this issue. If all citizens act in their own level, it will be very easy to control this violence situations which are arisen because cannabis use.

Discussion and Conclusion

The Sri Lankan Excise Department and the police have been conducting eradication campaign periodically to curtail the cultivation of cannabis. The estimated land area under cultivation is 500 hectares. However, this study investigated the data regarding to cannabis usage as a social violence factor among rural youth.

According to the data which was collected through the interviews, as the findings the researcher has mentioned that lot of cannabis users are young people in rural areas. According to the quantitative data which was collected through the cannabis users the frequency of 22 out of 40(55%) cannabis users were in between the 15-24 age category. The qualitative data were proved that by interviews. Through them, lot of cannabis users are included the age category of 15-24 years old. The significant level amount of cannabis users are in between 25-34 years old. Some of cannabis users even in the age category of 'below 15 years old'. So, it is clear that cannabis use had spread in the entire society.

Not only that there are several reasons which have had affected on young people to use cannabis. The main thing was the misperception or wrong ideologies about cannabis among rural people. According to the findings of the study, here are some possible reasons why a young adult may use cannabis than others. The study found that one is peer pressure. If a person has new relationships; a person adjusts to high school, or a new job or enter to society as new comer, he is forming new friendships and sorting out personal identity and ways of socializing. If those people were cannabis users, the new-comer also convert to use cannabis.

That peer group, however, not limited to their friends at school, but also to members of their own families as well. And also, the study investigated that availability is a key factor when it comes to cannabis use in young people. Unfortunately for a growing number of today's young people, obtaining cannabis is becoming even easier, especially in rural areas, as more states make it legal for medical and recreational use. Having the opportunity to smoke also contributes to the increasement of the use of cannabis, especially among people where there are less adult supervision and more privacy. According to the data which was collected from cannabis users through questionnaires, they said that they use cannabis because having fun, because personal problems, mental stress and so on. Those are also caused to motivate them to use cannabis.

The study found that the cannabis usage of rural youth also influenced on cannabis user's health. The harmful effects of cannabis related to the chemical THC (Tetra Hydro Carbinol). Cannabis also aggravates psychiatric disorders such as schizophrenia, panic attacks, self-harm and depression and leads to impairment of memory and dementia. In addition to that increased heart rates, start the risk of heart attacks, become thin etc also the negative consequences of cannabis usage. Those are different to each other as short-term and long-term negative effects of cannabis use.

The study found that there is a greater incidence of suicide of cannabis users. It also makes violence. suicide is also an intra-personal type of violence. And, the traffic police of Sri Lanka have confirmed that many long-distance bus drivers use cannabis are breaking road rules, overtake and speed, leading to the deaths of innocent civilians. The researcher has found that cannabis users are engaged in conflicts, when they try to find money for their need of cannabis use. Based on that, lot of problems arise.

Discussion with Other Findings

Bennett et al (2012) study of cannabis user's risk of offending is also confirmed by a meta-analysis that investigated the connection between cannabis use and crime. This meta-analysis reviewed 30 studies examining the effects of drug use on a broad range of violent and property crimes across the globe. In this study (survey 2020), the researcher also has investigated that out of 40 cannabis users, 82.5% respondents engage in different criminal activities than others. This is also proved by the study of Willy and Torbjorn (2009). According to the survey 2020, the researcher of this study also found that cannabis use also causes to make injuries. According to which was found through interviews, the professional also given the data about that cannabis users are also making injuries especially the road accidents. When a person uses cannabis and drives a vehicle or walking in road also caused to make problems. One of the interviewees who was the police officer in the research area had mentioned that road accidents are mostly done by cannabis using young drivers.

Further, the researcher also investigated that the cannabis use causes to make aggression in many stages of cannabis usage. It is also proved by several other studies. According to Samuel, Elina and Robert (2015), marijuana use is associated with worse outcomes in symptom severity and violent behavior in patients with PTSD. Not only that, the study on marijuana and interpersonal violence by Todd and Gregory (2005), the present review examines the available empirical and

theoretical literature on the relationship between marijuana and violence, the link between marijuana use and interpersonal violence and the relationship between marijuana withdrawal and violence. In this study, the researcher also investigated that aggression of cannabis users were also caused to make violence. The 40 respondents of cannabis users mentioned about how their aggressive behaviors are caused to make violence after cannabis use. In there, the frequency of 8 out of 40 mentioned that their aggressive behavior is also caused them to engage violence after cannabis use. Ant, the frequency of 23 out of 40 mentioned that lack of patience was caused them to engage violence after cannabis use. Therefore, those above studies and this research also examined about the aggression of cannabis (marijuana) users. It is not 100% aggression, but in several stages in cannabis use, it makes aggression.

In addition to that the researcher investigated that the cannabis users are make aggressive behaviors and those are caused to make conflicts with violence. This can prove through other studies. According to the study done by Karin et al (2006), cannabis was linked to externalizing problems, especially delinquent and aggressive behavior. the researcher has been investigated that cannabis use is also affected on human body negatively in physical and even mentally. According to the researcher, there are so many physical problems such as difficult to breath, heart attacks, become thin, lung cancers, vomiting, dehydration and so on. These findings are proved by other researches as follow. According to Linzen et al (1994), relationship between affective mental health disorders and cannabis use is more equivocal, although research suggests that depressed individuals are more likely to use cannabis and that use associated with an increased likelihood of anxiety, depression and suicide attempts. And also, the research done by Douglas (2016) has been examined the relationship between cannabis use and violent behavior. The study concluded that the results show that continued cannabis use is associated with 7 folds greater odds for subsequent commission of violent crimes. According to this study, when the cannabis uses young people want to find money to use cannabis, according to the last perception that they have before use cannabis, someone who are cannabis addicted people were also make violence within the society than other. It may be intrapersonal conflicts, interpersonal conflicts or any other type that they involved. It was also presented by the study was done by Holloway (2008). It explained that cannabis use and criminal involvement seems to be strictly correlated and use of cannabis has found to be highly correlated with violence among adolescents. Therefore, it is clear that these results of the studies are related to the findings of this study (survey 2020).

And, the researcher investigated that cannabis use cause to self-harm and make violence through that within the society. The data which was collected through interviews also mentioned that cannabis users have high blood pressure. That was the reason that they become aggressive. After they use cannabis, they try to harm own selves. On the other hand, the researcher has mentioned that because the mental illnesses arisen on cannabis users based on cannabis use lead to self-harm. This was explained by some other studies. According to Vajira and David (2017), they examined the extent to which ethnicity, cannabis and alcohol use could predict prevalence of violence and self-harm in an impatient psychiatric sample. As the result of the study, it was found that 66% had a history of a violence, 54% of self-harm, 40% of both: only 20% had neither. Cannabis use was found to significantly predict lifetime history of violence, other

independent variables did not. Therefore, according to comparing those findings between this study and other research's findings it is clear that according to most data, the cannabis use can be identified as a social violence factor among rural youth.

Limitations of the Study

While undertaking this research, the researcher encountered some limitations. It may be observed first and foremost that the present study is geographically limited and confined only to the Okkampitiya Police Division in Monaragala District.

The other important one was the influence of Covid-19. Because that was a time period of covid-19 out-break, lots of issues were arisen. It was not a chance to go to any industry of offices and have had to collect data over the phone. It was very difficult because the researcher could not able to use the non-verbal communication while gathering data. Some people hidden many information and not discover the reality. On the other hand, there may be many legal limitations while reporting about cannabis.

Recommendations

1. Make people's awareness about the negative aspects of cannabis usage.
2. Maintaining and starting the progressive rehabilitation centers for youth who use cannabis.
3. Revising laws related to violence and cannabis users.
4. Make new rules and regulations to minimize the cannabis relate violence within society.
5. Make new employment opportunities for low educated rural youth.
6. Give awareness to rural parents about the importance of caring own children.
7. Organizing programs to prevent the myths and wrong perceptions about cannabis within the rural society through suitable ways. Because, rural youth's perception about cannabis use was mostly made by cannabis consumers or traffickers. And, rural cannabis users were mostly low educated. Therefore, these programs may be attractive and organizers should be careful to give the information to cannabis users tactfully.

References

- Aalen, P. (2013). the impact of medical cannabis legalization on violent crime. *master thesis, university of Maslo*.
- Abel, E. (1997). The relationship between cannabis and violence: a review. *Psychological Bulletin*, pp 193-195.
- Abel, E. L. (1977). The relationship between cannabis and violence: a review. *Journal of psychological Bulletin*, 193-211.
- Agnew R and Kanfmon J. (2010). *Anomie, strain and subcultural theories of crime*. England: Ashgate publishing.
- Alexandrem Dumains, Stephane Potvin. (2017). Cannabis consumption increases violent behavior in young people. *Journal of Frontiorsin in Psychiatry*, 112-118.

- Bennett, T, Holloway, K, and Farrington. (2008). the statistical association between drug misuse and crime. *aggression of violent behavior*, 107-118.
- Blodock, M. (2007). Review of the literature on cannabis and motor vehicle crash risk. *Centre for Automatic Safty Research*, 156-158.
- Bray, S R and Born. H A. (2004). Transition to university and vigorous physical activity implication for helath and well-being. *Journal of American collage health*, 181-188.
- Brook, J. S. (2001). The effect of early cannabis use on later anxiety and depressive symptoms. *Journal of NYS Psychologist*, 35-40.
- Brook, JS Brook, DW, Rabbitt, CR. (2003). Earlier marijuana use and later problem behavior in Colombian youth. *Journal of American academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry*, 485-492.
- Brubacher, J. R. (2011). Cannabis and motor vehicle crashes. *BC Medical Journal*, 53-56.
- Buddy T, Steven Gans. (2020, December 02). *the negative health effects of marijuana* . Retrieved from verywellmind: <https://www.verywellmind.com/the-health-effects-of-marijuana-67788>
- FJ Alvarez, I Fierro, MC Del Rio. (2017). Cannabis and traffic accidents: Result from general population survey. *Journal of Forensic Science International*, 128-131.
- Freisthler, Gaidus, A, Tam, Ponick, W. (2017). Marijuana outlets and crime in an era of changing cannabis legislation. *journal of primary prevention*, 249- 263.
- Garnier, H.E and Stein, J.A. (2002). An 18 year model of family and peer effects on adolescent drug use. *Journal of youth and adolescence*, 31(1), 45-56.
- GC Patton, Caffey, Carlin, Lynskey . (2002). Cannabis use and mental health in young people. *British Medical Journal* , 1195-1198.
- Gelles, R J and Straus, M A. (1988). *Intimate violence; the causes and consequences of abuse in the American family*. New York: Simon and Schuster.
- Jean-Louis Martin, Blandine Gadegbeku, Dan Wn, Vivian Viallon. (2017). Cannabis, alcohol and fatal traffic accidents. *Journal of PLOS one*, 112-115.
- Jenny Williams, David Fergusson and John Horwood. (2012). Cannabis use and suicide ideation. *Journal of Tilburg University*, 112-118.
- Judith Brook, Jung Yeon Lee, David Brook. (2014). Development trajectories of marijuana use from adolescence to adulthood; rlationship with using weapons including drugs. *aggressive behavior*, 229-237.
- K Green, Doberty, M Ensminger . (2010). Does heavy adolescents marijuana use lead to criminal involvement in adulthood?: study of Urban Africa. *Drug alcohol depend*, 117-125.
- Karin Monshonwer, Saskia Van Dorselaer, Jacqueline Verdurmen. (2006). Cannabis use, aggression and mental health in secondary school children. *The British Journal of Psychiatry*, 148-153.
- Jean-Louis Martin, Blandine Gadegbeku, Dan Wn, Vivian Viallon. (2017). Cannabis, alcohol and fatal traffic accidents. *Journal of PLOS one*, 112-115.

- Jenny Williams, David Fergusson and John Horwood. (2012). Cannabis use and suicide ideation. *Journal of Tilburg University*, 112-118.
- Judith Brook, Jung Yeon Lee, David Brook. (2014). Development trajectories of marijuana use from adolescence to adulthood; relationship with using weapons including drugs. *aggressive behavior*, 229-237.
- K Green, Doberty, M Ensminger. (2010). Does heavy adolescents marijuana use lead to criminal involvement in adulthood? study of Urban Africa. *Drug alcohol depend*, 117-125.
- Karin Monshonwer, Saskia Van Dorselaer, Jacqueline Verdurmen. (2006). Cannabis use, aggression and mental health in secondary school children. *The British Journal of Psychiatry*, 148-153.
- Lisa,N, Sacco & Kristin Finklea. (2014). *State Marijuana Legalization Initiatives; Implicationj for Federal Law Encorcement*. Washington: Congressional Research Center.
- M Kring, C Davison, S Johnson. (2007). *Abnormal Psychology*. New York: John Wiley and Sons.
- Pearlman, S. (1968). Drug use and experience in an urban college population. *American Journal of Ortheopsychiatry* , 503-514.
- Samuel T Wilkinson, Elina Stefanovics, Robert, A, Rosenheck. (2015). marijuana use is associated with worse outcomes ij symptoms severity and violent behavior in patients with PTSD. *Journal od clinical psychiatry*, 1174-1180.
- VR Thacore and SR Shukla. (1976). cannabis psychosis and paranoid schizophrenia. *Arch.Gen.Psychiatry*, 383-386.
- Wadsworth EJ, Moss SC, Smith. (2006). a coomunity based investigation of the association between cannabis use, injuries and accidents. *Journal of Psychophamacology*, 20(1), 5-13
Willy Pedersen & Torbjorn Skardhamar. (2009). cannabis use drug adolescents and criminal changes. *Society for the study of addiction*.