



Offering Marijauna to Buddha image: Concern after Legalization of Marijuana in Southeast Asia

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Abstract

A significant local cultural heritage is frequently tied to religion. The typical source of culture is the locals' way of life. There have historically been a number of narcotic substances in Southeast Asia. Cannabis is one of the more popular narcotics. Recent local marijuana legalization has allowed marijuana products to enter the market. Here, the writers present and examine a remarkable case of a Southern Thailand-specific custom known as presenting marijuana to a Buddha image. This practice used to be forbidden when marijuana was still legal. However, it will be interesting to see how the conventional changes after legalization takes place.

Keywords: offering, marijuana, Buddha image, legalization

Introduction

Religion is frequently associated with a significant local cultural heritage. The way of life of the locals is a common source of culture. Southeast Asia has historically had a variety of narcotic substances. Cannabis is one of the most widely used narcotics. Marijuana products are now available on the market as a result of recent local marijuana legalization. The authors present and investigate a remarkable case of a Southern Thai custom known as presenting marijuana to a Buddha image. When marijuana was still legal, this practice was prohibited. However, it will be interesting to see how the social norms change after legalization.

Cases Study

The province of Suratthanee in southern Thailand is where the specific ritual practice is observed. The distance to the capital is about 700 kilometers. The local pagona namely Wat Bangklauy is the referred place. When one made a wish and asked for something from the Buddha image and ultimately got it, the old custom was to offer marijuana as a gift of gratitude to the Buddha image.

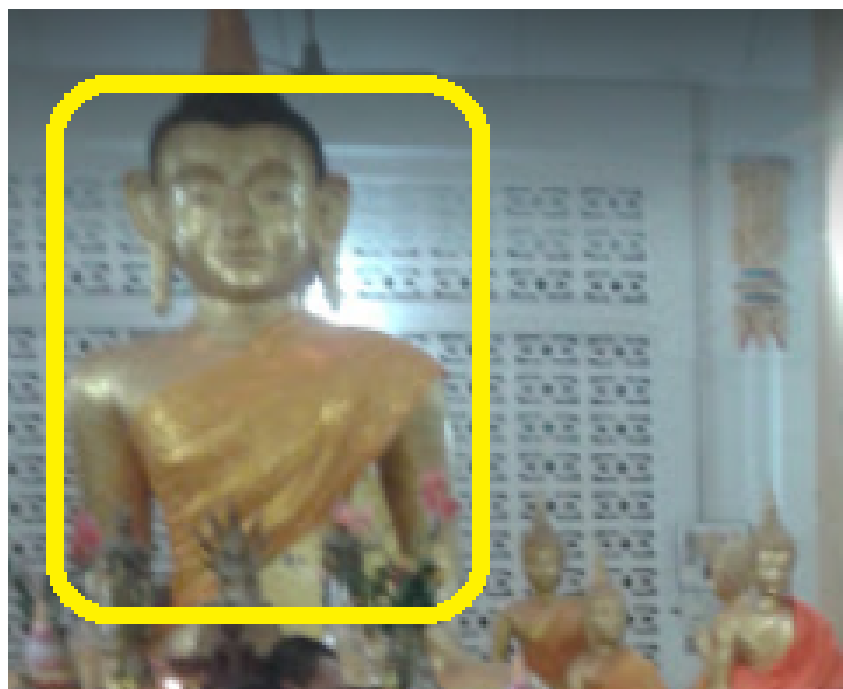


Figure 1.Buddha image that has the story of offering of marijuana by local people

Discussion

Although marijuana or cannabis sativa and its derivatives are often used, it is unknown if they have the potential to have substantial clinical interactions, especially when cannabinoid-enriched or otherwise concentrated products are involved. Most cannabis products' pharmacokinetics are unknown [1]. There is a lot of diversity where information is available [1]. The intricacy and variety of cannabis products as well as their distribution through different methods of administration make extrapolating from the little clinical data more difficult [1]. Marijuana has been known as narcotic drug for a very long time. Recently, there is an idea for legalization of marijuana and the legalization occurs in several countries [2]. More and more nations are legalizing marijuana for both medical and recreational purposes. Regarding how these changes may affect public health, there is a lot of debate [2].

In this article, the specific ritual practice of offering marijuana to a Buddha image is presented and discussed. This is a deeply rooted local practice and reflects the existence of marijuana in this area for a very long time. In fact, when marijuana was still legal for a very long period, this behavior used to be prohibited. It will be interesting to see, though, how the status quo evolves once legalization occurs.

Conflict of interest: None

References

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