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**A STUDY OF FACTORS THAT CONTRIBUTING TOWARDS MALAYSIAN
PERCEPTION ON MARIJUANA**

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JULY 2016

Table of contents

Chapter 1:	
Introduction	1-4
Problem Statement	5-7
Research Objectives	8
Research Questions	9
Scope of Study	9
Significant of the Study	10
Definition of terms/concepts	11-12
Chapter 2: Literature Review	
Marijuana	13-17
Conceptual Framework	18-21
Hypothesis	22
Chapter 3: Research Methodology	
Research Design	23
Unit of analysis	23
Sample size	23
Sampling Technique	24
Measurement	24
Data Collection	24-26
Data Analysis	27
Chapter 4: Findings	
Reliability Test	28-29
Univariate Analysis & Testing of Assumption	30
Respondent Profile	31-34
Objective 1	35
Objective 2	36
Objective 3	37-39
Roles of Pro-marijuana NGOs in Malaysia	40-43
Chapter 5: Conclusion	
Introduction	44
Recommendation & Suggestion	44
Limitation	45
References	46
Appendixes	48

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

Marijuana is a drug that derived from dried leaves, stems, and flowers of cannabis plant. It is also known as weed, herb, ganja, and cannabis. The latter species that can withstand in any weather are Cannabis Sativa and Cannabis Indica. Marijuana is the most popular drugs used in the world. The way of consuming marijuana is vary which it can be smoked by rolling a joint or using a bong, make it edible, brew a tea and also extracted to get the oil. In many parts of the world, Cannabis Sativa grows as a common weed, and drug preparations vary widely in potency according to climate, cultivation, and method of preparations. The top marijuana-producing nations worldwide were Paraguay, Mexico and United States. While in the other hand, Cannabis Indica is a shorter, hardier variety with rounded blue-green leaves, which grown in Afghanistan for hashish.

The discussion regarding the usage of marijuana for medical purposes has again entered into a debate situation both in public and health care arena. Medical marijuana has been legalized and permitted in some country like Netherlands, Belgium, Portugal, Switzerland, and Canada. As in Malaysia, marijuana is totally illegal. According to Malaysian Law Dangerous Drug Act 1952, cannabis is included as the mandatory crime. This is what we need to look over as the Malaysia Government should revise this act on cannabis. On a worldwide scale, there are several countries where marijuana is slowly gaining acceptance. In

CHAPTER 2

LITERATURE RIVIEW

2.1 Marijuana

Marijuana has potential to be medical purposes in term of health, behavioral action, and also toward individual attitude. According to Richard H. S. et al, 2001 in their research paper which 'A Survey of Teenagers and Their Parents', by setting numbers of questionnaires that consists of multiple choice, written survey and it also was design following a survey format. Besides they also carried out two form of survey which one focusing on teenagers and another just focusing on parents only. However, both forms of questionnaires are similar and it will answer different answered by based on their respondent roles. The group of researcher designed the question that involving the several issues such as discussion about medical marijuana, legalization of drug and lifetimes use of marijuana by the teenage and parent. In addition, a pilot study was tested in Vienna, Virginia which located in urban area Washington.

This pilot tested was carried out on a small group of youth. In result, an actual survey was involving almost 393 numbers of youth-parent pairs and the collection data are collected totally on that number of respondent. However, the group of researcher succeed gathering 203 respondent are male and the rest were female. This is good to collect the data because the targeted gender was male compared to the female. This is because male are more aggressive than female. However, the researcher also has been divided their respondent based on age ranking which around 13 to 15 years gathered in one group, 16 to 17 years in one

CHAPTER 3

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Research Design

The study is a cross sectional sample survey of marijuana users, medical marijuana practitioner and NGOs that fight for medical marijuana. It will determine the level of their knowledge about marijuana especially in medicinal usage.

3.2 Unit of Analysis

The units of analysis in this study are:

- i. NGOs Pro Marijuana in Malaysia
 - a) TARGAS – Drug Policy and Farmer
 - b) GRASSROOT MALAYSIA – Medical Marijuana
 - c) MCARE – Research about marijuana
- ii. Medical Marijuana Practitioner
- iii. Marijuana Users

3.3 Sample Size

The various types of respondent that selected comprises about 3 NGOs body that Pro marijuana, a medical marijuana practitioner and also 309 marijuana users from every state of Malaysia. The questionnaires had been distributed randomly to the closed community of marijuana users. An interview session also has been done with the founders of NGOs and also the medical marijuana practitioners.