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Use of Drugs for Rituals

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Use of Drugs for Rituals

Drugs and society are one of the topics explored in sociology to understand why most community members engage in drugs. Almost all the world societies reject drugs, but more people are indulging in them as the years' pass. The use of medications for rituals has become a common practice, whereby members indulge in drinking based on a social understanding of drugs. The literature describes the benefits of using illicit drugs and why being anti-drug does not help society but instead makes it more restricted.

The use of drugs as rituals is one of the practices in society. Walter Houston Clark names them as drug cult, referring to where a group of people uses drugs to attain a spiritual revelation. The notion is unknown to modern societies, but medicines have had significant impacts on religion's history. Today, most worshippers take wine and incense, said to assure the believers get closer to supernatural force when they use it (Husaini & Mann, 2019). For instance, some followers take the drugs to remember and death and rise of Jesus Christ.

Modern pharmacological cults insist that some of the elements used in the drugs are harmful. Nevertheless, the drugs are considered religious, where medicine men and witch doctors have even given guidelines on how they should be administered. The description indicates that members of society would indulge in drugs because of their rituals. They claim that the drugs are useful because they connect them with supernatural beings and accept them (Pettigrew et al., 2017). If such people are convinced to stop the rituals, they would feel that their beliefs are altered, causing more harm than good to their practices.

Illicit drugs have several benefits to the users. The notion is unpopular today since drug users are alienated because they do not care about social wellbeing. Nevertheless, people consuming illicit drugs access some benefits that the rest do not attain. In the short term, users experience pleasure popularly known as being "high" (Mey et al., 2018). It makes the users feel good, reduce chances of dealing with stress, and improve sleep (Wilkinson &

Ritter, 2020). The practice also has social benefits because when people meet in bars and parties, social interaction increases.

When people are excited, they could self-disclose the issues in their lives and receive assistance. As a result, they develop strong bonds with their friends to help them cope with life situations. A study in Australia reported that the youth accessed cultural gains with drug use, as social ties are strengthened, making them learn about social networks that empower them to reach cultural capital (Urbaeva, Booth & Wei, 2017). Based on the study, involving in drugs is therefore right, as people access more networks that are culturally advantageous.

Drug use also has benefits to some of the vulnerable populations in society. Party drugs is a term referring to medications that people use only when in parties or clubs. Such drugs include cocaine, ketamine, and methamphetamine, among others. La Trobe University studied how these drugs are used by same-sex people in Australia with HIV/AIDS. The study showed that the men only used the drugs while at the parties or needed to improve sexual pleasure (Morgan et al., 2013).

Besides, the study showed that regular users were happier than others. For instance, the resilience level was higher and coped with stigma due to the HIV status better. As a result, the people had more increased emotional well-being compared to the others. The study concluded that though the drugs pose health risks, they are socially useful as they develop rituals making them access long-lasting friendships and support that make them live positive lives despite the status.

Illicit drugs are also beneficial because they improve pleasure and act as a reward system because the brain is stimulated. Notably, the human brain is wired in that it relates pleasurable activities with rewards. For example, when one eats, the reward of feeling satisfied is triggered. Drugs do the same role, as they change the users' feelings of pleasure and pleasure. According to data, some drugs have ten times an impact on users' pleasure

encounters (Grindal, 2017). It makes the users easily addicted, so they experience the feeling regularly. Studies say that using drugs have adverse effects on the users' mental and physical wellbeing. In the short term, no research has said the impact of the drugs. If one uses illicit drugs rarely, chances of developing complications are rare. On the other hand, people access social benefits because they easily connect with friends. With the current situation, people are relying on social media, where the physical connection has reduced. Therefore, indulging in drugs is a suitable method to ensure that one's emotional connection with other people is guaranteed.

Being anti-drug does not help society, but instead, it is more restricted, based on Norman Zinberg's "drug, set and setting." The scholar claims that drug use in society is associated with negative implications like an addiction. However, studies indicate that the use of illicit drugs like marijuana is mostly rare, in that the users do not reach the addiction level easily. In 1981, 63% of the drug users were occasional, and since the short-term effects of the users are not known, most of society's perception is wrong (Zinberg, 1984). The same information was given by Lee Robins, who researched the Vietnam veterans' consumption of heroine, the most known dangerous drug. The scholar said that abusing drugs do not always cause addiction or alternation of everyday life. More so, most of the addiction cases would be reversed if the necessary measures are taken. The background information assisted, Zinberg to claim that persuading society not to take drugs could not be useful.

The scholar believed that several determinants play a role in drug indulgence. One of them is the drug referring to the impact of the substance itself, while the other is set referring to the user's attitude, while the setting is the influence of the person's environment. Zinberg insisted that setting is the least factor considered about drugs in society. He claimed that values and rules are evident in practice, which he named social sanctions as well as social rituals. While sanctions define usage of how a given drug needs to be used, rituals are

expected to use a specific drug. Most of the sanctions are informal; for example, the statement 'do not drink and drive.' Such statements make the users cautious because they know the consequences of their actions. Sanctions apply similarly to the rituals, and since these practices are against the law, the users develop anxiety.

Moreover, the scholar insists that the laws' guidelines with the illicit drugs conflict with the social rules (Zimberg, 1984). While the law prohibits the use of marijuana, the youth accepts it, evident by how they motivate each other in the parties. Here, the scholar says that putting the law does not end the practice; instead, it makes the users develop anxiety, making them cause harm to show that they cannot be controlled. If the people were less restricted, the sanctions and rituals would be freely practiced, which would make the fight against addiction less complicated.

In summation, drugs are not as harmful as society takes them. As discussed in the paper, various religions use drugs as rituals that connect them with supernatural power, implying that their faith would be affected if they were eliminated. Drugs have a positive effect socially, as they help vulnerable people develop emotional bonds with other people. They, therefore, live positive lives despite their status. As also shown by Zinberg, sanctions and rituals are useful in developing control in society. People using the drugs will easily have control over their behaviors if the anti-drug notion is not applied. It is the case because they would not feel restricted in their actions. Therefore, illicit drugs are useful for smooth functioning in society, opposing the widespread belief that they cause more harm than good.

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