

Qualitative Study: Motivation, Social Aspects and Environmental Stressors in Cannabis User Patients Admitted to Abepura Regional Mental Hospital, Papua Province

Ricky Rumboirusi^{1*}, Arius Togodly², Novita Medyati³, Dolfinus Bouway⁴, Agus Zainuri⁵, Sarce Makaba⁶

¹Faculty of Medicine, Cenderawasih University, Jayapura, Papua

^{2,3,4,5,6}Faculty of Public Health, Cenderawasih University, Jayapura, Papua

Corresponding Author: Ricky Rumboirusi ricky.rumboirusi@gmail.com

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The purpose of this study was to determine the motivation, social aspects, and environmental stressors of cannabis-using patients treated at the Abepura Regional Mental Hospital, Papua Province. This research is a qualitative study with Collaizi's research method. The research subjects were five ethnic Papuan patients who were admitted to the Abepura Regional Mental Hospital, Papua Province. The patient population was five men with an age range of 25-39 years. The research was conducted in December 2023-January 2024. The results of the study for the motivation of marijuana users are peer influence, and seeking recognition and sensation. The results for social aspects are low economic status and poor relationships with parents. The results of the study for environmental stressors are low self-acceptance and dissatisfaction due to unmet needs at home.

INTRODUCTION

Based on research by Anthony J, et al in 2016 it is estimated that 3% to 5% of the world's population is estimated to have tried or have used cannabis products, with at least one new user, outside of medical purposes and beyond the limits of use that have been determined in reference. (C. Anthony et al., 2016) Research (Ransing et al., 2022) (Ransing et al., 2022) shows that marijuana is one of the most frequently used substances worldwide, with predictions that in 2018 there were 192 million marijuana users, which if calculated would be equal to 3.9% of the world's population aged 15-64 years. Other data and research also suggest that cannabis abuse is linked to an increased risk of mental health disorders, including suicide, depression, and psychosis. Cannabis use has also been shown to reduce quality of life, for example causing school dropouts and violent behavior, which can even lead to disability, and also has a direct and indirect socio-economic impact. (Ransing et al., 2022; Roehler et al., 2023; United Nations on Drugs and Crime, 2020).

A report from UNDOC (*United Nations on Drugs and Crime*) shows that Indonesia is one of the countries in Southeast Asia that is a source of marijuana distribution. (United Nations on Drug and Crime, 2020). Data related to marijuana abuse in Indonesia also shows that for drug abuse, obtained data from the 2019 BNN and PMB-LIPI survey results, the national-level drug abuse prevalence rate in the past year was 1.80% of the entire Indonesian population aged 15-64 years. The equivalent of the prevalence rate reflects that there are 3,419,188 people who abuse drugs out of 186,616,874 Indonesians aged 15 to 64 years (Imron et al., 2020a). In other words, the ratio of drug abuse in Indonesia is 1:55, or out of every 55 Indonesians aged 15-64 there is one person who abuses drugs. (Research Center, Data in Indonesia, 2022).

Jayapura City a developing city and also the capital of Papua Province, with a growing population due to rampant urbanization, shows a significant increase in the number of cannabis abuse cases. (Ratana Pugu & Selly Dwi Suryanti, 2023) In 2023, in the Emergency Department of the Abepura Regional Mental Hospital, Papua Province, there were 15 cannabis users who were escorted by their families to be treated. The age range for cannabis user patients in 2023 was 15-30 years. This visit data increased compared to data from December 2021 to September 2022, during which period there were 4 cannabis users who were escorted by their families to be treated at the Emergency Department of the Abepura Regional Mental Hospital, Papua Province. The age range was different, namely 19-48 years. (Medical Records Section of Abepura Regional Mental Hospital, n.d.) This then attracted the interest of researchers to conduct a study that aims to explore information about the motivations, social aspects, and environmental stressors that affect cannabis users who are currently patients treated at the Abepura Regional Mental Hospital, Jayapura, Papua Province.

THEORETICAL OVERVIEW

Epidemiology of Cannabis Abuse

In 2021, more than 90% of emergency room visits in the United States were to patients who used marijuana at a productive age, which is in the range of 15

years to 24 years of age. (Roehler et al., 2023) The results of a study in 2016 stated that drug use among adolescents under the age of 24 may have a negative effect on the cognitive and emotional development of an adolescent, the transition from adolescence to early adulthood is a vulnerable period for an adolescent to start trying to use marijuana. (Degenhardt et al., 2016) Research conducted in 2017 in five countries in Asia, concluded that having mental distress or disorders can increase adolescents' vulnerability to drug use. Mentally distressed or impaired adolescents may use marijuana or other illicit drugs such as amphetamines because they think it can improve their living conditions and also want to overcome the mental stress they experience by using illegal drugs. (Peltzer & Pengpid, 2017) (Lemstra et al., 2008).

Ecological Framework (Peltzer & Pengpid, 2017)

The study also revealed that risk factors for marijuana use among adolescents can be grouped following an ecological framework and can be divided into a) sociodemographic factors, b) personal conditions, c) parental conditions, d) environmental stressors, and e) peer factors. Sociodemographic factors that influence substance use include male gender and age. Personal conditions may include mental distress, smoking, skipping school, and lack of support or acceptance from peers. Parental conditions may include parents using illicit substances, lack of parental support, lack of parental monitoring, and lack of parental attachment to the child. Environmental stressors may include hunger, lower economic status, bullying from the neighborhood that creates insecurity or rejection, fights, and acts of violence or physical assault. (Peltzer & Pengpid, 2017; Ransing et al., 2022)

Data and Regulations Related to Cannabis Abuse in Indonesia

Data related to marijuana abuse in Indonesia also shows that for drug abuse, data obtained from the 2019 BNN and PMB-LIPI survey results, the national-level drug abuse prevalence rate in the past year was 1.80% of the entire Indonesian population aged 15-64 years. The equivalent of the prevalence rate reflects that there are 3,419,188 people who abuse drugs out of 186,616,874 Indonesians aged 15 to 64 years (Imron et al., 2020a). In other words, the ratio of drug abuse in Indonesia is 1:55, or for every 55 Indonesians aged 15 to 64 there is one person who abuses drugs. The results of BNN and PMB-LIPI research in 2018 also show that the prevalence trend of drug abuse in Indonesia in the student sector is also quite high at 3.2%, or equivalent to 2,297,492 people. Similarly, the prevalence rate of drug abuse in the labor sector is 2.1% (1,514,037 people) (Imron et al, 2019). (Research Center, Data in Indonesia, 2022)

The data from these results indicate that there is a vulnerability of young people of productive age in Indonesia, keeping in mind that Indonesia is currently at a demographic bonus momentum which will peak in 2030. The government needs to pay serious attention if it does not want to lose the golden Indonesian generation of 2045. (Basrowi et al., 2021) The increase in marijuana abuse is a paradox, considering that the Indonesian state already has regulations that can punish marijuana users. (Republik Indonesia, 2009)

METHODOLOGY

This research is a qualitative study using the Collaizi method (Beck, 2023; Park et al., 2018; Wirihana et al., 2018). which aims to explore in-depth information about the motivations, social aspects, and environmental stressors that affect patients who use marijuana at the Abepura Regional Mental Hospital, Jayapura, Papua Province. The research location is at the Abepura Regional Mental Hospital, Jayapura, Papua Province.

The informants in this study were 5 people using the purposive sampling technique. Informed consent was obtained from the informants. The research was conducted at Abepura Regional Mental Hospital, Papua Province, Indonesia in December 2023-January 2024. The legality of research through Ethical Clearance issued by the Faculty of Public Health, University of Cenderawasih.

RESEARCH RESULTS

Data Collection Method

The method of data collection is primary data, which is carried out by means of *in-depth* interviews (*indepth interviews*) with informants using interview guidelines. Secondary data collection was obtained by reading reports or medical records from the Abepura Regional Mental Hospital, Jayapura, Papua Province related to this study. Observations were made by directly observing the research location and information from informants. Data processing and presentation were carried out by collecting all the desired data/information. After various data were collected to analyze them, qualitative analysis techniques were used, including three elements, namely data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion drawing to describe the data that had been collected.

Characteristics

The characteristics of the informants are 5 male patients, of Papuan ethnicity, with an age range of 25-39 years. Most informants have used marijuana for more than five years. All five informants are marijuana users who are being treated at the Abepura Regional Mental Hospital, Jayapura, Papua Province.

Research Theme

The themes explored in this research are:

1. Motivation.
2. Social Aspects.
3. Environmental Stressors.

Research Results for the Themes Motivation, Social Aspects, and Environmental Stressors

Excerpts from researcher interviews related to the motivation of cannabis user patients who are treated at the Abepura Regional Mental Hospital, Papua Province, are the majority of informants admitting to using cannabis since they were in school because around where they live many of their peers also use cannabis and in the school environment and where they live it is a common thing to do.

"...when I started to know about using marijuana, it was from wearing white and gray clothes...I read about it in the counseling book, I did not participate in the counseling but got the book from my seniors,...friends already had a network to bring it into the school..." (Informant, 1).

"...I have a lot of money, I don't know what to do with it, I work in Sarmi, I use marijuana in Jayapura, I get marijuana from Skouw, a friend invited me to use it. (Informant, 2).

"...friends, first knew in junior high school, from playmates..." (Informant, 3)

"...the first time I knew about using marijuana was in junior high school, I learned about it from complex children, my friends gave it to me for free..." (Informant, 4).

"...I don't know either, there is a thief friend he has, he said there is a dizzy cigarette, ... using this is addictive, then ask for more friends, we wait and wait, he goes down to buy it himself, we don't know who he is shopping for, then he doesn't give us just like that, he wants us to follow him pu want, harvest rambutan, harvest durian, then he gives it, so we already help (Informant 5)

During the interview, informant 5 said that he first learned about marijuana from peers around his place of residence, and initially the informant did not know that what was given was marijuana. According to the informant's confession, because the marijuana was given in the form of rolled cigarettes, there was no suspicion and the informant thought that the cigarettes given were ordinary cigarettes. The informant admitted that he began to feel different because of the addiction that kept appearing. According to the informant's recognition, the rolling cigarette, which turned out to be marijuana, was called a 'dizzy cigarette'.

For the theme of social aspects, especially about the informants' relationship with their parents, from the results of the researcher's interviews with the informants, the following results were obtained:

"...I want to see the reaction of my parents when I do things that I never thought of, ... my parents have a kind of upbringing, it's hard, if we want to go out, it must be clear that we can only be here, parents supervise, ... mama supervises more, the father is busy with work when mama died I felt lost, but what else can I do..." (Informant 1).

"..My parents are divorced, when I was still young, I joined my mom in Sarmi. She gave me a lot of money too..Mother is the number one parent, because without my mom, how can I be?...it's difficult..my father wasn't a bad father. He is an extraordinary person,pay attention tom e.He likes to advise me not to be spoiled, not to be lazy, to have my own work,but he didn't gave me money. Mom gives me money but doesn't pay attention, it's better to live with mom. ...(Informant 2)

"..not good, I don't know either, ..usually angry, I don't know either" (Informant 3)

"..parents are at home, fine, normal, close too (patient makes an angry face)..." (Informant 4)

"...it's safe, with my father having to go to the garden, if my mother is most happy when we make a garden, it's very good...." (Informant 5)

The results of research on the theme of social aspects, especially relationships with parents, found that divorced parents, lack of supervision from parents towards informants, and lack of communication from parents with informants as aspects that influence informants to use marijuana.

For the theme of social aspects, especially about relationships with education or work, the following are excerpts from interviews with informants:

"...college in 2014, 2019 finished, I had classes in several places, but did not finish, college in ... did not finish because mama died, dropped out of ... continued at ..., ... if my work had moved around." (Informant 1)

"...I went to the School of Mechanical Engineering, I held back a grade, I wanted to go to college but they said I didn't have enough grades, so I went straight to work..." (Informant 2)

"...just go to college, until semester 5, because my parents don't have the money to continue..." (Informant 3)

"...the last time I went to senior high school was 2012, I moved to Serui, because of juvenile delinquency my parents gave me a transfer, my parents didn't come, they only gave me ticket money and travel money, and then I left..." (Informant 4).

"...could not continue only until grade 2 at the School of Mechanical Engineering because there was no money so...(Informant 5)

The results of the researcher's interviews with informants, related to the education aspect, showed that all informants could not complete the level of education taken. During the interview, it was also found that informants tended not to be able to settle on one job, even though they remained in one city, informants tended to move jobs more often. This makes informants currently more unemployed than working.

Environmental stressors in an ecological framework (Peltzer & Pengpid, 2017) include hunger, poor economic status, *bullying*, fights, and physical assault. Excerpts from the results of the researcher's interview with informants regarding environmental stressors faced around their place of residence are as follows:

"...I am grateful that there is a house that can be occupied, when I work until I get tired there is a house that can be used as a place to charge. not disturbing (with many marijuana users), maybe because consumption has been a long time, it's not a new thing, ... so it's a normal thing, even normal activities, ... just comfortable ..." (Informant 1)

"..I don't know what to do with the house..at home, it's good, enough food, but I prefer to have fun, get drunk, women, marijuana... I feel good at home... it's good, I'm satisfied because what I want, I can get, women, marijuana, alcohol..." (Informant 2)

"...it's not good either, because there are other children in the house, smoking, ... it's not good, there are people who don't like it at home, prefer to be outside ... it's not good either, don't know, like not feeling well, the sense of residence is not good" (Informant 3)

"It's safe.... safe, at home more relaxed, sitting, drinking coffee ... where it's better now, crowded if at home it was quiet ..." (Informant 4).

"...safe, calm, calm mind, not disturbed, sometimes there is food, sometimes not, because we only hope from the garden... it's very comfortable, but you have to hunt, because you used to hunt meat so when there is no food, your mind runs away... factories with tribes are not safe, if people come to make kaco in the complex, tong also makes kaco in the complex dong..." (Informant 5)

From the interview excerpts that have been summarized, the research results show that the influence of peers and the desire to gain recognition and seek sensation as a motivation drives patients who use marijuana who are treated at the Abepura Regional Mental Hospital. Low economic status, as well as poor relationships and attachment to parents, are the social aspects that most affect marijuana users. Regarding environmental stressors, what was found in this study was low self-acceptance of the situation that occurred, as well as dissatisfaction with unmet needs at home.

DISCUSSION

This study aims to examine the motivation, social aspects, and environmental stressors of cannabis user patients who are treated at the Abepura Regional Mental Hospital, Papua Province. The results of research related to motivation in five patients who use marijuana show that the first time the informants learned about marijuana from peers, the factors that encouraged them to start using marijuana were trial and error, seeking recognition and sensation to be appreciated, and feeling more confident when using marijuana. (Tripathi & Moakumla, 2018) regarding self-actualization. The results of this study are also in accordance with the ecological framework of (Peltzer & Pengpid, 2017).

For the social aspect, there are four aspects explored, namely the recent feelings felt by the informant, the concerns felt by the informant, the informant's relationship with his parents and also the informant's level of education or employment. The results of interviews with the five informants related to the theme of social aspects related to feelings that have been felt recently are; one informant admitted that he felt normal, one informant admitted that he was afraid that he could not work anymore, two informants admitted that he felt calmer after praying more, and one informant felt calmer and more peaceful without a detailed reason. The results of the social aspect theme interviews related to the informants' concerns were concerns about working to earn money, concerns about their spouse, and concerns about getting rejected from friends.

Informant 1 said that in relation to his relationship with his parents, his parents' upbringing was quite strict, even though his father was busy working, his mother always watched over him. Informant 2 in the interview said that his parents had divorced since he was a child. Since childhood informant 2 lived with his mother, and was also quite spoiled by being given a lot of money, on the other hand, supervision from his mother was also lacking. Informant 3 said that he could not communicate well with his parents. Informant 3 said that he often experienced confusion because he was scolded for no apparent reason. Informant 4 did not have a harmonious relationship with his parents. Informant 5 said that

his relationship with his parents is quite good, and his parents also require him to work hard in the garden in order to provide for their lives.

The results of this study are in line with the ecological framework of (Peltzer & Pengpid, 2017) that poor economic status, relationships with parents, and a lack of sense of attachment to parents are factors that influence informants to use marijuana. From the results of this study, it is found that the theme of social aspects is in accordance with the ecological framework from (Peltzer & Pengpid, 2017) that personal conditions and parental conditions are factors that influence marijuana users.

The results of the researcher's interviews with the five informants on the theme of social aspects related to education or the work of informants who are patients who use marijuana who are treated at the Abepura Regional Mental Hospital at this time are not working, mostly because they do not have a good education and do not have a diploma, another thing is due to the inability to settle on one particular job. In a follow-up interview, the informant said that he often found it difficult to focus on one job. These results may be in line with research that cannabis use can reduce cognitive function. (Degenhardt et al., 2016)

The results of this study related to environmental stressors are related to low self-acceptance of cannabis users of the situation that occurred, as well as dissatisfaction with unmet needs at home. These results are in accordance with the ecological framework of (Peltzer & Pengpid, 2017) that there is a link between stressors that arise around the environment or where marijuana users live and the urge to abuse marijuana.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The conclusion of this study is that the strongest motivation and drive to use marijuana is the influence of peers and the desire to gain recognition and seek sensation, in addition to low economic status, and poor relationships and attachment with parents being the social aspects that most affect marijuana users. Environmental stressors, which were obtained in this study were low self-acceptance of the situation that occurred, and also dissatisfaction due to unmet needs at home.

Further recommendations for related research are that collaboration is needed both cross-sectorally and multisectorally. Problems related to marijuana abuse are complex problems, and handling them needs to be done comprehensively. Research related to marijuana abuse can be seen from many aspects ranging from prevention, intervention, and public policy. Other perspectives that might be explored more deeply are gender perspectives, age groups, relationships with other addictive substances, and legal aspects, as well as law enforcement. Every aspect and point of view that will be explored to serve as the basis for research references certainly needs to look back at marijuana abuse that occurs contextually in the country or region targeted to be the focus of research.

FOLLOW-UP RESEARCH

The limitations of this study are the fragmentary data in each related institution. Data related to marijuana users certainly do not only exist in the

Abepura Regional Mental Hospital but can also be found in other institutions such as the Narcotics Penitentiary in Sentani. Suggestions for further research that the scope of the research area can be expanded to each related institution in order to obtain complete data so that research related to marijuana abuse can be better developed.

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