Abstract Journal Article

[Name of the Writer]

[Name of the Institution]

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**Purpose**

The purpose of the article is to reconsider the drug policy and reconcile it with the realities present on the ground to emancipate society from the curse of drugs.

**Summary**

The government of the United States initiated a war against drugs driven by the belief that the United States has been awash with drugs due to which a culture of gangs, burden on healthcare budget and decadence of the society has been on the surge. However, according to many critics, the policy of the government has been based on misleading facts which have completely ignored the underlying cause of the surge in drug-related crimes and incidents. The article sheds a light on the fact that suppressing the issue has exacerbated the issue further; it might be in the favor of every stakeholder to legalize the drugs, but there are some stumbling blocks in the way towards achieving that goal.

There are mix reactions when it comes to legalization of drugs as the proponents-especially the lawyers fraternity- of the legalization say that depriving an individual of enjoying themselves by taking drugs is an act that goes against the rights enshrined in the constitution, jeopardize civil liberties guaranteed by the constitution that made every citizen master of their life. On the contrary, there exist people in the United States that goes against this idea of legalization and hold that legalization of drugs would be tantamount to jeopardizing public health through state-sanctioned laws, increasing healthcare costs and facilitating the spread of disease, putting the future of the generations to come on the line. The second argument seems valid as many scientists, physicians, and psychologists are in favor of it after reaching a logical conclusion after a year of research that drugs render irreparable harm to the human body, the society in which the human being resides and the overall population of the community in one or the other.

The article also points to the fact that it is the need of the hour to reconsider the inaccurate assumptions and models examining the causes of the preponderance of drugs and reconcile them with the established difference of use and abuse and provide an alternative for legalization and policy framework. Additionally, there is a dire need to change the focus of the war waged against the drugs and the drug dealers towards clamping down on the black market with all the available resources which is the epicenter of this affliction in which the American society has been mired in, apart from establishing a solid difference between the drug users who are unfortunately addicted due to personal problems and drug abusers that enjoy administering the drugs. Lastly, the individuals that have been suffering from the unfortunate use of the drugs must integrated back into the society by first treating their affliction and later equipping them with some sort of skilled labor so that they earn them a respectable earning which would help in reducing the swallowed crime rates that were swallowed due to previous drug user who are integrated back into the society, apart from the altering the mindset of the society towards the drug users and fostering a culture of tolerance, acceptance, and compassion for the disenfranchised members of the society.

**Strong and weak points**

Listed below are the strong points of the article.

The war against the drug has been prolonged unnecessarily long incurring huge losses on the budget of the United States. Furthermore, the drug policy has been based on wrong and inaccurate assumptions that have caused this war to become a never-ending war. Certainly, the author has highlighted that the crimes, corruption, and disease prevalent in American society today is due to the preponderance of drugs. Furthermore, the preponderance of drugs has resulted in police-involved incidents resulting in several law enforcement officers losing their lives. The strongest point of the article is that the harder the American government has come down on the drug dealers and drugs, the harder the blow it suffers.

There are weak points in the article as well which are stated next.

In the article, it has been suggested that drugs should be legalized making it a weaker argument. Another weak point of the article is that it suggests that the United States must target the black markets. Since most of the drugs that make their way to the United States come from the South and Central American countries and East Asian countries, so targeting the black markets would mean targeting these countries. It would require a significant amount of resources that would be a burden on the taxpayer's pocket. Lastly, another weak point of American society has been highlighted that it considers the drug users as a second class citizen and do not accept them easily back into society.

**Benefits**

Following are the benefits of the article to the reader.

The readers after reading the article have been familiarized by the serious nature of the problem of drugs that has afflicted society. Furthermore, the readers now know that the policy of the government has been proved to be counterproductive. Additionally, readers now know that most of the drugs come from overseas. Moreover, the readers now know that drug users do not do drugs because of their choice but they are forced into it to unfriendly circumstances. Lastly, the readers now know that there exists an unconscious bias that obstructs the smooth transition of the drug users back into society.

**Applicability**

The article applies to this class in numerous ways. The students have now solid understanding about the problem of drugs. Additionally, the students have developed the understanding that there are serious complications attached to the drug problems. Lastly, the students now understand that the policy on the drugs is problematic and must be reconsidered.