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Illustrative Essay: Marijuana Impacts on Economy & Society

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As of October 19, 2019, there are 21,900 results on Google Scholar for legalization of marijuana economic effects and on google alone there are 929,000 results. The first page on google scholar consisted of academic publications from health journals and on the first page on google consisted of non-academic articles from magazine and journals like Forbes and Investopedia. Many articles on google scholar discuss the negative and positive impacts of the legalization of recreational marijuana on the economy and society. This essay will discuss about the variety of literature found on how the legalization of recreational effects the economy and society.

Mohammad Hajizadeh’s *Legalizing and Regulating Marijuana in Canada: Review of Potential Economic, Social and Health Impacts* talks greatly about economic effects it has on states that has legalized recreational marijuana. Hajizadeh reports that the state of Colorado’s recreational sales reached $1 Billion in 2015 and more than $135 million in taxation revenue and fees. It is also reported that their economic boosts impact their community positively by funding the public school’s construction fund and substance abuse program are a few to name. Hajizadeh also reports that legalizing recreational marijuana will reduce the risks of having black markets and illegal drug dealers and will substantially reduce the government’s spending on law enforcements drug forces.

Soo Kang’s *From Forbidden Fruit to the Goose That Lays Golden Eggs; Marijuana Tourism in Colorado* reports that marijuana industry can be compared to the Gold Rush. But there some effects on the society which include; increase marijuana-related emergency room visits, newborn children born with marijuana in their system, increase of homelessness, rise in drug related school suspensions, lawsuits from neighboring states, etc. but it’s effects on the economy definitely does overshadow the effects it has on the society. The article also reports some policies and regulations that the state of Colorado has, some tourists vacation packages and statics on tax revenue.

According to David Evans’ *The Economic Impacts of Marijuana Legalization*, a tax expert and attorney Pat Oglesby conducted an analysis of tax proposal. Ogelsby reports that Washington State’s tax proposal could generated $500 million in state revenue and could create a new source of revenue income. Evans’ also reports that marijuana is an addictive drug and also a gateway effect to other drugs, Evans discusses the possibility of productivity loss, impact on public health and the negative impact on children.

The student researcher was able to gather information needed for the final research paper using google scholar to search for academic articles. Many articles can be found on any platform and it is guaranteed a great article to use as a reference for a research essay. And the student researcher was able to find information that includes; impacts on the society, public health and the economy.