

# **Youth and Drugs in Karu Abattoir Abuja: The Economic Perspective**

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## **Abstract**

The consumption of marijuana amongst the youth at Karu abattoir is very fearsome. It is said that marijuana amongst many views, is an incentive to hard work; to some it enables ease thinking; and to some it relaxes the body nerves. However good these views are, the consumption of this hard substance still remains illegal in the society. While strategies are being employed to eradicate unlawful consumption of this substance more of it is being consume in places like Karu abattoir. This work sought to find out what constitute demand function of marijuana consumption at Karu abattoir. Questionnaire/interviews was administered to workers in abattoir and after which Descriptive method of analysis was employed to enable vivid description of the answers so as to find out factors that constitute the demand function of marijuana at Karu abattoir. The work found out that even with the already listed factors as, income, price, there other factors as orientation, habit, peer group, ambition and what have you constitute the demand function of marijuana at Karu abattoir.

## **Introduction**

Consumption of Illegal Drugs globally has increased tremendously despite its negative effects experienced by many. This increase is reflected in United Nations drug control program (UNDCP) (1997) where it recorded that the World trade in illicit drugs is viewed in the range of \$300 to \$500 billion. For more clarity (UNDCP) (1997) states that “A growing body of evidence suggests that the true figure lies somewhere around the \$US 400 billion level...accounting for approximately 8% of international trade...In 1994 this figure would have been larger than the international trade in iron and steel, and motor vehicles, and about the same size as the total international trade in textiles”

This challenge of increase in the utilization of illicit drugs has made Government agencies and social workers (NGOs inclusive) to introduce various measures with the aim of discouraging the consumption of these substances, the result have been slim compared to the expected so much so that it has posed challenges to other groups saddle with the responsibility of reframing the morals of the society. While various sources have expressed concern on this issue, schools in their usual ways have also made various attempts to curtail this menace. However, these efforts have failed to meet up with the expected results.

In order to elucidate the extent of damages caused by these substances, Prohibitionists have argued that the consumption of marijuana is an entrance that leads to consumption of harder drugs. DeSimone (1998) reports evidence of marijuana consumption being a gateway to cocaine. However, David Penington, former head of the Victorian Government’s Drug Advisory Committee, argues that marijuana is a gateway to hard

drugs for young people *because* it is illegal; in his words, “The reality is that the gateway from marijuana to other drugs is the source of the marijuana ... When marijuana is illicit, when its distribution is via an illicit trade, then the young who buy that marijuana also are offered heroin.” (Penington, quoted in Malpeli and Martin, 1998.)

Whereas literatures have viewed the consumption of this substance as gate way to consumption of harder substances, and as more methods are being adopted by different groups to reduce or curb away this societal ill, the question remains what are those factors that determine demand for the consumption of marijuana especially at Karu abattoir?

A major difficulty in studying the demand for marijuana is one of quality of data. The illegality involved in running transacting this drug will means that there are no data available from official sources. As we take a closer look at this constrain, we are also guided by some theoretical factors that determine demand in general.

### **Methodology**

The demand for commodity is generally based on the likely satisfaction that might be derived from it usage or consumption. In summery factors that determines demand are: income (I), the price of the good in question ( $P_i$ ), the prices of other goods ( $P_o$ ), tastes (t), weather (w), government policy (GP), time (T), location (L), number of buyers (NB), quality (Q), expectation about future (E), supply (S), and technology (TE). This can be depicted mathematically as:

$$Q_i = Q_i ( I, P_i, P_o, t, W, GP, T, L, NB, Q, E, S, TE).$$

Note, While these factors that determine demand might be same for some commodity; they might also not be the only factors that determine demand for other commodities as illegal drugs (marijuana) especially at Karu abattoir. Other factors such as: environment,

beliefs, peer groups, orientation, habit, ambition, anxiety, and loss of parental upbringing e.t.c. might be added factors that affect the demand for illegal substances.

In trying to find out other likely factors that determine the demand for or consumption of marijuana at Karu abattoir a Likert scale method of questionnaire was administered at Karu abattoir. The questions were quite simple and easy to understand without much explanation. Since the study was geared toward finding out those factors that determine the demand for and the consumption of marijuana at Karu abattoir, descriptive method of analysis was used in the study.

In defining the population of Karu abattoir at the time the study was carried out, it was difficult to give the actual population estimate. This difficulty was due to an increase in the population as a result of fusion of Karu and Garki abattoir. However, the approximated population at the time the study was carried out was estimated at 200.

A sample size of 50 (fifty) was taken (i.e.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the total population). The Sample size constituted the following:

### **Sampled population composition**

<b>Sex Composition</b>		
	size	%
Male	30	60
Female	20	40
Total	50	100
<b>Composition By Marital Status</b>		
Married Women	10	20
Married Men	10	20
Single	30	60
Total	50	100
<b>Composition By Age</b>		

13-18	5	10
18-40	40	80
40- and above	5	10
Total	50	100
<b>Composition Educational Status</b>		
University graduate	5	10
Secondary school graduate	10	20
Primary school graduate	10	20
School dropout	25	50
Total	50	100

*Source: questionnaire*

### **Presentation of Result**

The questionnaire revealed that more than 80% consumed marijuana at Karu abattoir. It was further revealed that slightly above 70% of the respondents had either their friends as those who patronize marijuana. It was also exposed that 70% respondent strongly agree on the effect of factors such as: income, tastes, weather, time, location, number of buyers, quality, expectation about future, and supply on the demand for marijuana at Karu abattoir. 100% agreed that marijuana is being sold at karu abattoir. In the case of the prices of other goods which might be substitute; it was revealed that 20% saw it as influential on their demand for marijuana while 70% saw it as less influential. 100% were of the view that government policy has nothing to do with the consumption of cannabis since government is not in support of the sells on this substance. 100% of the respondent felt technology had no influence on the consumption of marijuana. They felt the crude type of marijuana of marijuana is better.

The price of the good in question was expected to be one of the prime determinants of demand for marijuana since the law of demand is clear on the effect of price on a product. In the case of demand for marijuana at abattoir Karu, this factor was viewed as having less than 50% acceptance of its effect on marijuana consumption.

Other factors such as environment, beliefs, peer groups, orientation, habit, ambition, anxiety, and loss of parental upbringing were strongly accepted as factors that determine the consumption or demand for marijuana at Karu abattoir.

### **Implication of result**

From the data presented we can say that there has been an influence of factors such as: income, tastes, weather, time, location, number of buyers, quality, expectation about future, and supply on the demand for marijuana at Karu abattoir. We also saw that price being a major factor that determines demand for other products had little influence in the case of demand for marijuana at Karu abattoir. This view expressed from the questionnaire showed that a slight or rapid increase of price of marijuana might not determine change in the consumption of marijuana at Karu abattoir. It further showed that price elasticity of marijuana at Karu abattoir is inelastic. When comparing those factors included in the mathematical model above and those listed as the likely factors that determine demand for marijuana at Karu abattoir we realized that while 70% accepted those factors those factors included in the model, 100% gave an overwhelming acceptance on those factors not included in the model. This implied that when forming a demand model for Karu abattoir, it will be necessary to include them in the new model because it will make the model clearer for estimation of demand for marijuana at Karu abattoir.

The factors not listed in the model are qualitative. This means that if government is to stop the consumption of marijuana at Karu abattoir it must exploit qualitative solution so that it can effectively stop the demand for this substance at Karu abattoir.

### **Conclusion**

In conclusion two basic things can be dictated from this study. These are:

1. That despite the effect of factors as: income, tastes, weather, time, location, number of buyers, quality, expectation about future, and supply on demand for marijuana at Karu abattoir, the qualitative factors as environment, beliefs, peer groups, orientation, habit, ambition, anxiety, and lose of parental upbringing were most accepted as those factors that affect the demand for marijuana at karu abattoir.
2. Secondly we discovered according to the responses made that price dose not have much effect on the demand for marijuana.

### **Recommendation**

From the responses made the following recommendation have been made.

That government should reframe its monitoring team by involving more psychologist so that the will be able to proffer solution with respect to the qualitative factors considered to have much effect on the demand for marijuana especially at Karu abattoir.

Literacy program should be encourage within environment as abattoir so that the will be thought through this medium on the danger of consumption of illicit drug.

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