

## **Abstract**

Cannabis is the most used illicit drug globally. Nevertheless, cannabis users often do not have sufficient knowledge about cannabis. Definition of cannabis “quality” can include both desirable effects and safety profile of the product. Harm reduction approach is commonly deployed for other illicit substances and it is also necessary to advance it for cannabis.

The aim of this research was to reveal what Czech cannabis users consider as “quality” cannabis and how they assess it. Respondents were asked what help them to prevent mental and physical harms and how it influenced the intoxication.

For the purposes of this thesis, ethnographic research was chosen (Janeček, 2014). Collection of qualitative data was performed using the method of qualitative semi-structured interviews (Miovský, 2006). The interviews were coded using a method of grounded theory (Strauss & Corbin, 1999).

Respondents’ motivation for use was based on bio-psycho-socio-spiritual approach. Most of the participants distinguished “quality” cannabis by smell, level of intoxication, taste, structure and “health” aspects that depend on a method of cultivation. If cannabis users asked about the origin of cannabis, in few cases they did not get the information at all. Inexperienced respondents are not able to distinguish cannabis varieties, but some of them recognize at least some differences. A vaporizer was assessed as the least harmful way to use cannabis. However, respondents in this study did not use it very often for various reasons. Most common harm reduction techniques which the respondents applied were to start to use cannabis in small doses, drink enough and eat before use, use only weak strain or do not use cannabis with alcohol.

The knowledge about the exact content of cannabis and peer-based advices could be helpful for the harm reduction manual for the cannabis users to mitigate the adverse effects from their use.

## **Key words**

Cannabis type drugs - quality - risks of use - harm reduction