THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN LEVELS OF EDUCATION AND PERCEPTIONS OF PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS OF QAT DRUG AMONG YEMENI SOCIETY

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ABSTRACT

The study investigated the perception of Yemeni society about the Physical Environmental effects of Qat in Yemen. A self-designed questionnaire was used for collection of their views. The participants of the study comprised 2073 respondents of different level of education from Taiz town selected across different working places in the three main Districts: Salah, Almothafar, Alkahera. Results clearly revealed that majority of the respondents appreciate Physical Environmental effects of Qat in Yemen.

also shows gender gap in Women participation in perception of Yemeni society to Physical Environmental effects of Qat in Yemen, these results reflecting role of males in Yemen society, they are more free and active, On the other hand, Yemeni’s woman are less free in activity and participation especially in social life. But the affect of education is mainly due to levels of education, general activities of students, in the other ward the higher perception of the community toward Qat phenomenon, namely, raise of education levels for respondents step-by-step through official education levels

Keywords: Perception, Yemeni society, Education, Qat.
INTRODUCTION

Qat (Catha Edulis Forsk) is an evergreen shrub of the Celastraceous family. In eighteenth century, Peter Forsskalin described a plant from Yemen and he named it catha edulis. Since that most authors have used this name (Kennedy et al. 1983; Baasher 1980). and its use seems to have expanded considerably in recent years. Traditionally, Qat leaves are chewed in the company of others as a social and cultural activity. Apart from its usefulness for easing the atmosphere on social occasions, Qat has historically been used for medical purposes such as treating melancholia and depression (Elmi 1983; Kalix 1984)

The dark-green leaves of Catha edulis are used in Arabia to yield Qat. The principal is to use it as the beverage of the natives. The shrub, which resembles tea, was grown in terraced gardens in Arabia long before coffee was introduced, and may even antedate tea. It grows wild in Abyssinia and is cultivated in other parts of Northeastern Africa including Ethiopia, Kenya, and at high altitudes in South Africa and Madagascar. It also grows in Somalia, Djibouti, Tanzania, Uganda, Rwanda, Zaire, Zambia, Turkistan and Afghanistan (Revri 1983)

Chewing of Qat leaves and ingesting the juices that contain the psychoactive substance, Cathinone, produces sympathomimetic and central nervous system stimulation analogous to the effects of amphetamine (Schechter et al, 1984). These effects include elevated blood pressure, mydriasis, hyperthermia, anorexia, insomnia, and alertness (Baasher 1983; Mekasha 1984). The subjective pleasurable effects such as the ability to concentrate, euphoria, confidence, friendliness, contentment and flow of ideas have also been reported (Baasher 1983; Kalix 1988). Reports of socio-medical problems related to Qat usage included decreased economic productivity, family instability, reactive depression (especially on cessation of use), malnutrition, gastritis, cerebral haemorrhage, myocardial insufficiency, spermatorrhea impotence and low birth weight (Halbach 1972; Pantelis et al. 1989; WHO Advisory Group 1980).

Nowadays in Yemen, Qat is used by almost all people in all levels of society. These seem to be no upper limit of age but a lower limit do excite. An eight or ten year's old child knows the normal procedure of chewing Qat just as an adult does. Qat is chewed for it’s mildly stimulant properties of the fresh leaves. In Yemen, it is deeply embedded in the socioeconomic life. It is an important item in social occasions especially at birth, circumcision, marriage and funeral services. since Qat is a stimulant like coffee, tea and it is generally not considered prohibited by the Islamic law, consequently there is no moral objection in Yemen Republic against its abuse. The principal of Chewing Qat in Yemen is time consume and entertainment. Qat is an important high cash income crop and plays a significant role towards the total cash income.
Chewing is a normal practice among students, farmers, bureaucrats, laborers, teachers in schools and universities, shop keepers, doctors, house waives maids, scientists, travelers, etc. One would estimate that at least over 85% of the Yemeni people are chewing Qat leaves and over 60% of these are in the habit of chewing once a week and some 30-40% of these find it necessary to chew Qat daily.

Yemeni authorities believe that Qat possesses an increasing socioeconomic problem. However, there appear to be no clear and effective policies providing guidance how to deal with the problem. In Yemen, the demand for Qat is very strong and its cultivation is highly profitable for farmers, consequently the expansion of Qat cultivation has been quite significant, over the last two decades the areas is estimated to have at least tripled if not quadrupled to some 80,000-126,000 hectares (Oskar 1992).

The study’s major concern therefore, was to determine the relationship (if any) in the levels of education and perception of Physical Environmental effects of Qat, that is, how does Yemeni society perceive to Physical Environmental effects of Qat? Is there any correlation between levels of education and perception of Physical Environmental effects of Qat? How does the male and female perceive to Physical Environmental effects of Qat in Yemen? How does the chewing Qat and non chewing Qat perceive to Physical Environmental effects of Qat in Yemen?

**Hypotheses**

The study was designed with the following hypotheses in view:

**HO1:** There will be no significant relationship in the perception of Yemeni society to Physical Environmental effects of Qat in Yemen between male and female.

**HO2:** There will be no significant relationship in the perception of Yemeni society to Physical Environmental effects of Qat in Yemen between they are chewing Qat and non chewing Qat.

**HO3:** There will be no significant relationship in the perception of Yemeni society to Physical Environmental effects of Qat in Yemen between pre-secondary, secondary and post-secondary.

**METHODOLOGY**

**Design**

The research design used in this study is A cross-sectional study survey. This was adopted to explain the relationship among the variables in the study, included were
socio-demographic characteristics, use of Qat, education level, Age, Gender, Chewing Qat.

**Target Population, Sample and Sampling Technique**

The sample involved 2073 respondents of different level of education from Taiz town. The town center has three main Districts: Salah, Almothafar, Alkahera, 243 were holders of pre-secondary school certificate, such as Primary, Preparatory, Diploma Pre-secondary, 378 others were holders of secondary school, and 1452 were holders of post-secondary school, such as Diploma Post-secondary, University, Post graduate, 1393 were males and 680 were females. The ages of the subjects ranges between ≤20 and ≥40 years and all the subjects were drawn from different working places like; student and Teaching Service, both primary and secondary schools, workers in tertiary institutions; both academic and non-academic, hospitals, banks, media houses and other public and private establishment in three main Districts locations in Taiz town, 256 Kms Southwest of Sana’a in Republic of Yemen.

**Instrumentation**

The research instrument employed for the study was a self developed questionnaire and was validated through experts’ opinion of 12 Academic form Sana’a University, Taiz, Damar, Hadramaut, and some foundations, ministry of agriculture, ministry of environment and water and from academic staff outside Yemen. Their observations and suggestions were used in revising the draft questionnaire before its final adoption. The questionnaire was trial tested and a reliability coefficient of correction for internal consistency of (0.81) This is rated very high in educational methodology (Best, 1981). The questionnaire has a total of 28 items divided into four sections; Environment Perception field, Agricultural Perception field, Economic Perception field, Health Perception field. The three-point scale of (Strongly Agree- Agree partly (mean, to some extent) – Disagree) were used to determine the respondents’ views.

**Procedure**

The questionnaire was personally administered with three interviewer teams. Each consisting of male and female persons. Additionally, three supervisors, one for each interviewer team were employed, whole team was trained one day and the mode of administration was the same in the entire working places visited. The investigator discussed with the head of each working place about the purpose of the study and each respondent was adequately briefed on the relevance of the study. While ‘strongly agree’ attracts three marks ‘Agree partly (mean, to some extent) attracts two marks, ‘disagree’ attracts one mark.
Data Analysis

Chi-square statistics was used to analyze the data collected and to determine the extent of relationship among the variables.

RESULTS

The Socio Demographic Characteristics of the Study Population

Moreover, Table 1 summarizes the distribution of the (2073) respondents according to the gender. The result of the analysis suggested that overwhelmingly majority of the respondents 1393 (67.2 %) were male, while only 680 (32.8 %) are Female. There were (1169) 56.4% Qat Chewers and (904) 43.6% Non-Chewers, pre-secondary school participants were 11.7% (243) while secondary were 18.2% (378) and post-secondary were 70.0% (1452) participants.

Table: 1 Summarizes the distribution of the respondents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variables</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Population (n=2073)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gender</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>1393</td>
<td>67.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>680</td>
<td>32.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chewing Qat</td>
<td>Chewing Qat</td>
<td>1169</td>
<td>56.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Non chewing Qat</td>
<td>904</td>
<td>43.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level of Education</td>
<td>pre-secondary</td>
<td>243</td>
<td>11.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>secondary</td>
<td>378</td>
<td>18.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>post-secondary</td>
<td>1452</td>
<td>70.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table: 2 Results of the relationship between the male and female perceptions of Physical Environmental effects of Qat

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variables</th>
<th>perceptions</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
<th>X2</th>
<th>DF</th>
<th>P</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>low</td>
<td>moderate</td>
<td>high</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>746</td>
<td>908</td>
<td>1393</td>
<td>0.336</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>%</td>
<td>0.6</td>
<td>34.2</td>
<td>65.2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>232</td>
<td>445</td>
<td>680</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>%</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>34.1</td>
<td>65.4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>708</td>
<td>1353</td>
<td>2073</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0.6</td>
<td>34.2</td>
<td>65.3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The above result shows that there is no significant relationship in perception of Yemeni society to Physical Environmental effects of Qat in Yemen between male and female. Therefore H01 is validated.

Table: 3 Results of the relationship in the perceptions of Physical Environmental effects of Qat between they are chewing Qat and non chewing Qat.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variables</th>
<th>perceptions</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
<th>X2</th>
<th>DF</th>
<th>P</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>low</td>
<td>moderate</td>
<td>high</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chewing Qat %</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>162</td>
<td>991</td>
<td>1169</td>
<td>5.705</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non chewing Qat</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>788</td>
<td>904</td>
<td>13.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>274</td>
<td>1779</td>
<td>2073</td>
<td>5.705</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The above result shows that there is no significant relationship in perception of Yemeni society to Physical Environmental effects of Qat in Yemen between Chewing Qat and Non chewing Qat. Therefore H02 is validated.

Table: 4 Results of the relationship in the perceptions of Physical Environmental effects of Qat by pre-secondary, secondary and post-secondary.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variables</th>
<th>perceptions</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
<th>X2</th>
<th>DF</th>
<th>P</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>low</td>
<td>moderate</td>
<td>high</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pre-secondary %</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>168</td>
<td>243</td>
<td>2.784</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>secondary %</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>131</td>
<td>244</td>
<td>378</td>
<td>13.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>post-secondary %</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>504</td>
<td>941</td>
<td>1452</td>
<td>5.705</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>708</td>
<td>1353</td>
<td>2073</td>
<td>5.705</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The above result shows that there is no significant relationship in perception of Yemeni society to Physical Environmental effects of Qat in Yemen between pre-secondary, secondary and post-secondary, Therefore HO3 is validated

DISCUSSION

How people perceive Physical Environmental effects of Qat is dependant on how they live, their culture, living conditions and existing values. The result of this study have shown that there is no significant relationship in the perception of Physical Environmental effects of Qat by different groups considered for the study, therefore all the formulated hypotheses except HO3 were validated on the basis of the result. In other words, it should be noted that a large number of the sampled population appreciate Physical Environmental effects of Qat in Yemen.

The result also shows gender gap in Women participation in perception of Yemeni society to Physical Environmental effects of Qat in Yemen of 33% and males is 67% these results reflecting role of males in Yemen society, they are more free and active, On the other hand, Yemeni’s woman are less free in activity and participation especially in social life.

We know complexion of Males in Yemen life, whereas Males are more freedom and activity, wanderings in the market places to buy requirements of family, and their occupation out of home, also they are more social participant, such as weddings, solace, and occasions of political, religion which especial about Yemen, as well reading of daily Yemeni newspaper.and Yemeni woman are less freedom in activity and participant, also they are less suffering than Males in related to the consequent effects of chewing of Qat. Taking Qat plant originally men habit’s, and the females are strike up chew Qat lately, and also they can not go to Qat market and buy it. Until the present times, women believed that the chewing is acceptable for males and woman participant is limited of going to occasions such as wedding and solace only even, so perception of females in Qat effects on health and family life, so Gender variable alone has no effects on the perception

The appeared, the variances is statistically different for favor of those who not chewing Qat in questionnaire fields, because, those who not chewing Qat have perfect perception with environmental effects, Agriculture, and Health, conform with (Mahmud’s study 1989), study which mentioned that those who not chewing Qat more learning, responsible, more cheerfulness and self-control, that is perhaps belong to most of those who not chewing Qat, are chewers, previously and the Qat affected their life, so they are left it, whereof perform to development their ability and perception, partway they are participate in cautioning and education to damages which Qat is left.

As for, the variances is statistically different for favor of those who chewing Qat in questionnaire fields, this significant association for favor of them, indicate to they are feeling substantially the negative effects for Qat phenomenon on household
economy and community because they are practicing that with obedience to chewing Qat habit, of which is caused to lacking of their money and unbalance the family budget as a result, lack the necessary requirements of family, special, whose having of the limited income.

Those who chewing Qat are more participant socially in occasions and festivities, also they are more discussions and dialogue to political, culture news, that from palaver and battle royal which permeate Qat gatherings. According to (Mahamud’s study, 1989) those who chewing Qat are possess the leadership, and liking to social initiative, also response to disagreement and disputation, but when we see there are superiority of their perception in total of field of Human life effects, we finding this result is discrepant with (Mahamud, s result, 1989) where he mentioned, whose chewing Qat are less perception, and feeling with their environment. Also Recent Qat users reported more favourable attitudes towards Qat use, whilst non-recent Qat users tended to exhibit similar attitudes to non-users. Other subgroups who tended to report favourable attitudes towards Qat were men, older respondents. So, majority the recent Qat users, they said to researcher, they did not wish to cease using Qat.

The overall result prove of there is effects for education levels on perception of Yemenis society toward Qat phenomenon, especially, relative to Qat effects on Physical environmental such as soil, agricultural, Economic and pollution, but don’t have effects on relative to Qat effects on Health, and also the positive perception in Human effects such as Social life, and Yemeni Culture excepting Family life, but it can be seen that there is perception in Total of Questionnaire fields, and there is effects for education levels.

In Addition to above, that indicates to the official education can share in the effect on the perception of the community either physical environmental, Agriculture, Economic, Health or Human effects, as social, family, and culture, as general concepts, this effect is not completely able to produce final perception to the phenomenon, because, courses of official education in Yemen, minus the information on Qat phenomenon specially, but there is general information about Environmental, Agriculture, and others.

But the affect of education is mainly due to levels of education, general activities of students, in the other ward the higher perception of the community toward Qat phenomenon, namely, raise of education levels for respondents step-by-step through official education levels, this stages have uncommon effect to increase perception levels of Yemenis society to Qat phenomenon, that from through information or contact by sources which increasing perception after that, from through the advancement of reading and understanding, such as expert books, newspaper, radio, television, or participation in associations actions which against chewing Qat.
Actuality, the differences in the level of education effects in the perception of the community, indicate they were distinct in community calculated, according to level of education, our finding with (Sayem 1997) but inverse Al-Gumais (1995) previous study, that is there necessity to take the level of education by favored position in every attempt pertinent to perception development of Yemenis society toward phenomenon of spread and chewing Qat.

But, we observed, the low levels of education such as primary and preparatory education and diploma pre-secondary not appear in analysis of variance multiple comparisons, Post Hoc Tests "LSD" for 'Dependent Variables because their were not have got positive effect in their perception toward Qat phenomenon and the awareness of its problems. Our finding that, comport (Mahmud 1990; Murad 1982) whose added to that the majority of this categories the best of chews in society, and their commonly from working class, literal as drivers or mechanical and any doings it need to asperity, vigilance and actions.

The most important, there was no variance in total of all questionnaire fields for fifty-seven Items, this indicates to no finding out variance in perception of Yemeni society toward Qat phenomenon effects, as it were the effects of Qat phenomenon not leaving feeling or awareness or attitudes with person for extent of magnitude this negativeness effects on the environment and Yemeni society, as a result of this feeling generally, and perception especially, not grow up and not advance, wherever, Age grow.

All that problems effect in community and give their profound sense toward this problems, whereof were his of clear effect on their perception, as mentioned (Al-Zuabi 1987) "The hearts of people in majority of Yemeni community, with chewing Qat and their minds against of chewing Qat", namely this, the Yemeni community live kind, "knowledge incongruity" between positive perception to toward Qat phenomenon, and the factual behavior who their perform, as chewing Qat.

Conclusion and Recommendation

The comparison between the educated group in relation to perception of Environmental effects of Qat in Yemen, showed the results, proportion of people not able to give an appropriate response when asked about the effects, Possible explanations the environmental Management in Yemen not contains a provision on the obligation of the government to cultivate and develop the public's awareness of its responsibility with regard to the management of the living environment by means of education.

ultimately, the resolution of environmental problems would depend more on the attitudes and values of the general public than on the knowledge of experts. The mass media play a pivotal role in shaping public opinion through television, radio, and the press, and television.
Environmental education should be taught intensively and comprehensively through all education avenues, formal, informal, also conducted in the family circle by parents. to help and protect people outside school systems by educating them with skills and developing their personalities. This education should be based on the aspirations of the society and the program planners or decision makers.

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