

## REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR-55180

**Title:** BHANG: WHETHER A SUBSTANCE OF ABUSE OR A MIRACULOUS DRUG

### Recommendation:

Accept as it is .....

Accept after minor revision.....

Accept after major revision .....x.....

Do not accept (*Reasons below*) .....

Rating	Excel.	Good	Fair	Poor
Originality			X	
Techn. Quality			X	
Clarity		x		
Significance		x		

Reviewer Name: Dr. Mohammad Nadeem Khan

## Detailed Reviewer's Report

The manuscript is a comprehensive and ambitious attempt to synthesize classical Ayurvedic literature on *Bhang* (*Cannabis sativa* L.) with modern toxicological and pharmacological perspectives. The authors have compiled a vast array of textual references from Anandakanda, Nighantus, Rasa Tarangini, and modern literature, showing considerable scholarly effort. The manuscript addresses an important and timely topic, considering the global resurgence of interest in medicinal cannabis. However, the article would benefit from structural refinement, improved scientific coherence, precise referencing, and clearer articulation of objectives, methods, and analytical framework. While the descriptive sections are rich, they sometimes lack critical evaluation and synthesis. Some areas require modernization of language, reduction of redundancy, and improved figure/table integration. The manuscript is valuable but needs moderate to major revisions before acceptance.

### Title & Abstract

#### Strengths

- The title is clear, engaging, and highlights the central dichotomy—therapeutic drug vs. substance of abuse.
- The abstract is well written, providing historical context and summarizing Ayurvedic perspectives.

#### Areas for Improvement

- The abstract is dense and slightly long; condensing the middle paragraphs would improve readability.
- The abstract should briefly mention *modern pharmacological or toxicological relevance* to balance the Ayurvedic emphasis.
- Keywords may be expanded to include *Cannabis sativa*, *phytochemistry*, *Ayurveda formulations*, *toxicity*, etc.

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## REVIEWER'S REPORT

### Introduction

#### Strengths

- Provides a robust historical and textual background.
- Establishes relevance by connecting ancient uses with modern regulations and scientific interest.

#### Concerns

- The introduction lacks a clear **research gap** and **objective statement**. It should explicitly define: *Why is this manuscript needed now, and what unique contribution does it offer?*
- Some sentences would benefit from improved coherence and reduced redundancy.

### Literature Compilation (Origin, Morphology, Synonyms, Rasapanchak, etc.)

#### Strengths

- Excellent and detailed compilation directly from classical texts.
- Tables improve clarity and provide structured information.
- Morphological and taxonomical descriptions align well with modern botany.

#### Recommendations

- Ensure all classical references follow uniform transliteration and citation style.
- Some tables (e.g., Rasapanchak) are very long—consider shifting detailed explanations to supplementary material.
- The botanical description section contains multiple direct reproductions from open-access sources—ensure proper paraphrasing to avoid similarity concerns.

### Bhanga Vardhana Vidhi, Shodhana & Classical Formulations

#### Strengths

- Unique and valuable section that highlights rarely discussed Ayurvedic methods.
- Offers a strong interdisciplinary bridge between Ayurveda and modern plant sciences.
- Shodhana procedures are well tabulated and concise.

#### Points Needing Revision

- The cultivation-enhancement section includes highly ritualistic content; authors should:
  - Clarify which aspects have potential modern research relevance.
  - Differentiate *symbolic/ritual* elements from *pharmacognostic/pharmaceutical* relevance.
- Evidence for therapeutic claims (e.g., lifespan extension, immortality) must be clearly framed as *classical descriptions*, not scientific facts.

### Toxicology and Adverse Effects

#### Strengths

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- Provides a balanced view between traditional Vikaras and modern toxicology.
- Good integration of forensic toxicology references.

### Issues

- Some descriptions (e.g., hashish insanity, violent tendencies) need careful wording to avoid stigmatization and should cite modern psychiatric literature.
- Fatal doses and fatal periods should be updated with contemporary toxicological data if available.

### Discussion

#### Strengths

- The bridging between Ayurveda and modern pharmacology is thoughtful and innovative.
- Good conceptual comparison of rasa–guna–virya with modern phytochemical functions.

#### Recommendations

- Discussion should be more critical and less descriptive.
- Include a brief section on:
  - limitations of classical claims,
  - challenges in standardization,
  - regulatory considerations for clinical applications,
  - Safety and dosing.

### Conclusion

#### Strengths

- Summarizes the manuscript well.
- Highlights the potential for integrative research.

#### Improvements

- Add a clear statement on future research directions (phytochemistry, clinical trials, standardization, toxicovigilance).
- Conclusion should not introduce new concepts.

### References

#### Corrections Needed

- References from classical texts should follow consistent transliteration and formatting.
- Ensure all modern references follow one uniform style (Vancouver/APA).
- Many references appear repeated or inconsistently formatted; thorough editing is required.

#### Suggestions

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- Add clear objectives and a methodology for literature selection.**  
Currently, it reads as an unstructured narrative review.
  - Improve scientific language consistency.**  
Avoid mixing classical claims with modern facts without proper qualifiers.
  - Reduce redundancy in long descriptive sections.**  
Streamline tables and move extremely detailed lists to supplementary data.
  - Strengthen the critical evaluation in Discussion.**  
Present limitations, research gaps, and realistic translational insights.
- Ensure figure citations match their placement and numbering.
  - Add subheadings for easier navigation.
  - Improve the transitions between Ayurvedic and modern sections.
  - Enhance the readability of very long tables using consistent formatting.