



AWARENESS AND ATTITUDE TOWARDS VOLUNTARY BLOOD DONATION AMONG VOLUNTARY AND REPLACEMENT DONORS. A PROSPECTIVE STUDY FROM A TERTIARY CARE HOSPITAL BASED BLOOD CENTRE.

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ABSTRACT

Scarcity of blood and blood products is frequently encountered in health care institutions. Increasing awareness among young people about blood donations can serve as an important pool of potential blood donors for hospitals. **Aim:** To assess the awareness of blood donations among voluntary and replacement donors. **Material And Methods:** a prospective study conducted in department of immunohematology and transfusion medicine LD (Lal ded) Hospital a tertiary care hospital In Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir, India. The study was carried over a period of one year from August 2021 to July 2022. **Results:** In this present study 64.3% were voluntary donors and 35.7% were replacement donors. 22.8% the height percentage among donors show apprehension of weakness after blood donations as the main reason for not donating blood. Followed by other reasons as well. 0.57% as least percentage of donors due to there low hemoglobin as a reason for not donating blood. This reason was mainly seen among female donors. **Conclusion:** There is a critical need for training and culture building activities and programs to increase people's awareness and improve their attitude towards blood donation.

KEYWORDS : Blood donation, awareness, motivation and youngsters.

INTRODUCTION

Blood donation (BD) is considered as a typical altruistic behavior, and recruitment/retention campaigns give emphasis to altruism. Here, a benevolence hypothesis for blood donation (both the donor and recipient benefit) rather than the altruism hypothesis (only the recipient gains) is proposed [1]. The World Health Organization (WHO) encourages that blood donation becomes voluntary and unremunerated [2].

Blood donation is one of the most significant contribution that a person can make towards the society. Blood transfusion has been recognized as one of the eight key life saving-intervention in health care facilities [3]. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), at least 1% of the nation's population should donate blood voluntarily to meet the basic requirement for blood and blood products. [4] So to get that percentage of blood donations it's important to know the awareness and motivation of people for donating blood. Lack of awareness leads to less blood donations which in result can lead to crisis during emergency transfusion requirements. Thus, there is a need to explore the different factors that contributes towards voluntary blood donation.

AIM

To assess the awareness of blood donations among voluntary and replacement donors.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The present study was a prospective study conducted in department of immunohematology and transfusion medicine LD Hospital a tertiary care hospital In Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir, India. The study was carried over a period of one year from August 2021 to July 2022. All the voluntary and replacement donors attending the blood bank and donors from out door camps were included in the study. Donors were

screened properly, donor registration forms were filed, which included a detailed pre-donation questionnaire. At the time of questionnaire filling reason for the donation was asked and the reason for not donating previously was also asked. By this information we were able to assess the awareness, misconceptions and motivation of blood donors in our part of country. Proper selection of donors is an important means to improve the overall safety of blood supply (5). Young and educated people are considered safer blood donors since the residual risk of transfusion-transmissible infections is assumed to be lower in this population. Despite the fact that the donated blood always undergoes extensive appropriate testing as per recommendations by the World Health Organization, the residual risk of transfusion-transmissible infections is always present.

Ethical and Institutional Issues

The study has been approved by institutional ethics committee. Informed consent of the participants were collected while blood donation.

RESULTS

During our study period, A total 7003 donations were held. Out of which 4500 were voluntary donors and 2503 were replacement donors. Out of 7003 donations, 6959 were male donors and 44 were female donors. [Table 1, 2]. The reason for not donating blood varies from person to person. [table 3]

In our study 64.3% donors were voluntary donors and 35.7% were replacement donors. Percentage of female donors were very less only 0.7% and all were voluntary donors, No female donor were from replacement group. 22.8% of donors said the main reason for not donating blood Was apprehension about feeling weakness after donation, with least percentage of low hemoglobin of 0.57%.

Table:1 voluntary donations vs replacement donations

	Total	Voluntary donors	Replacement donors
Number of donors	7003	4500	2503
Percentage	100%	64.3%	35.7%

Table:2 Male donors vs female donors

	Total	Male donors	Female donors
Number of donors	7003	6959	44
Percentage	100%	99.3%	0.7%

Table:3 Reason for not donating blood

S. NO	Reasons	Number (N=)	Percentage (%)
1	Apprehension about feeling weakness after donation	1600	22.8%
2	Lone attendant with patient	1000	14.4%
3	Unaware of collection facility	999	14.2%
4	Never get an opportunity to donate	700	9.99%
5	Lack of awareness about blood donation	693	9.9%
6	Pain during and after donation	600	8.56%
7	Taking too much blood	599	8.52%
8	Unknown fear	500	7.15%
9	Fear of needle	100	1.49%
10	Afraid of the sight of blood	90	1.28%
11	Concerned about sterility of equipment	80	1.14%
12	Low hemoglobin	40	0.57%

DISCUSSION

The requirement for blood transfusion is very high in India due to regular need in health services. Blood donation represents an important issue in the health system in India. Therefore, the aim of the present study was to assess the level of awareness towards blood donation in this part of country. In the present study, the majority of the surveyed individuals believed that the level of awareness toward blood donation is getting a little bit better. The main reason for not donating blood or not becoming a regular donor are in table no 3. Which shows maximum percentage of donors not donating blood was apprehension about feeling weakness after donation I.e 22.8%

Which was higher than Khajuria et al 2017(6). 14.4% of the replacement donors said the reason for not donating blood was being single attendant with the patient,as they said we had to run here and there for main formalities in the hospital.14.2% of the voluntary as well as replacement donors said non availability of blood centre in there area they are not able to donate blood.9.99% and9.9% of donors said due to not getting an opportunity to donate blood due to there busy schedules and lack of awareness regarding benefits of blood donations. 8.56% donors said pain during or after donation was the reason for not donating blood although pain during donation is not true. This percentage was similar as in Khajuria et al study. 8.52% donors said the reason for not donating blood was fear of taking too much blood during donation. 7.15% and1.49% donors has unknown fear and fear of needle pricks. 1.28% and 1.14% donors said afraid of sight of blood and doubts about sterility of needles. 0.57% donors were mainly females ,the main reason for not donating blood was there low hemoglobin previously.

One large group of voluntary donors donated with the motive of being from shia sect of Muslim population were they organise the blood donation camps during ist 10 days of Muharram, rather than wasting blood they donated there blood for saving lives. Blood donation camps organised by some government officials,the main reason for donation was providing one week off after donation. Some donors were motivated to donate blood in order to save lives of there friends and families.

In order to increase awareness about blood donation among young generations,maximum resources should be utilised like with the use of mobile blood collection vans we can cover maximum population on weekly basis and motivate them for blood donation and try to become regular voluntary donors. Transfusion need is much higher than donations in our country,so in order to balance the two we have to educate people that too younger generations about the benefits of blood donation and remove the myths related to blood donation.

CONCLUSION

The broad concept of blood donation is still poor in this part of country.Government plans are needed to raise the level of awareness and increase the perception of blood donation among Youngsters. The best use of social media should be implemented in blood donation strategies. Efforts should be made to increase number of female donors. Main reason for female population not donating blood was low hemoglobin, iron supplement should be given to the females of reproductive age group.Benefits of blood donation should reach every nook and corner of the country through social media,radio ,television and print media. This way we can increase the number of voluntary blood donors and retain the replacement donors as regular voluntary donors.

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Conflicts Of Interest

There are no conflicts of interest.

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