



KNOWLEDGE AND ATTITUDE RELATED TO HUMAN ORGAN DONATION AND TRANSPLANTATION AMONG UNDERGRADUATE MEDICAL STUDENTS: A STUDY CONDUCTED IN VADODARA, GUJARAT.

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ABSTRACT

Not only doctors save the life but a common person can also save the life who is known as organ donor. Organ donation is the process where a braindead person becomes life saver even after being virtually dead. Organ donation is defined as giving an organ or part of organ to be transplanted into another person. To assess the knowledge of undergraduate medical students regarding organ donation and transplantation, a cross sectional questionnaire based study was conducted at baroda medical college, Vadodara, Gujarat so the perception of future doctors can be known. Data of 246 students was analysed. Majority of students were aware about organ donation and transplantation and its significance in saving lives but they lack the knowledge for legal provision governing and regulating organ donation and transplantation. Students showed their interest and positive attitude by accepting their interest in motivating others for organ donation and extended their support for this noble cause. More efforts are needed to make student legally sound which eventually will help them in safe clinical practice.

KEYWORDS : Knowledge, Law, Organ donation, Transplantation, Undergraduate Medical students

INTRODUCTION

Not only doctors save the life but a common person can also save the life who is known as organ donor. Organ donation is the process where a braindead person becomes life saver even after being virtually dead. Organ donation is defined as giving an organ or part of organ to be transplanted into another person¹. Science has advance at such level that now a human being can save many lives awaiting organ donation. It is established that various human body organs can be donated to considering fitness of donor².

Currently, thousands people are waiting for organ transplantation and may people die because of the serious condition created because of scarcity of organ donation. There exist a rise in donation for the past few years but still deceased organ donation is still an are of concern. Immense work is required to meet such scarcity of organ donation to increase donations. To address this scarcity, one of the important points to improve the organ donation is public and professional education and awareness³. Imbalance in terms of such donations has been observed amongst different state of India so this study was conducted to know the knowledge, attitude and practices towards Transplantation of Human Organs and Tissue act which governs and regulate all activities involving organ donation and transplantation. Undergraduate medical students are the budding doctors who must possess knowledge and legal provisions of organ donation and transplantation for better practice and that's how they can help educating others as well.

MATERIAL AND METHOD

This cross-sectional observational study was conducted amongst Undergraduate MBBS Students of Baroda Medical College, Vadodara, Gujarat to assess their knowledge about human organ donation and transplantation. Study included Undergraduate MBBS Students as voluntary participation.

A questionnaire was prepared containing questions pertaining to organ donation and transplantation and that was pretested by involving 40 undergraduate MBBS Students as pilot study and was modified by amendments of different

answer options of questions asked for better outcome. Informed written consent was taken and they were instructed not to reveal their identity. Total 246 Undergraduate MBBS Students have submitted the questionnaire out of total 250 Students with their answers and data was analyzed for conclusion.

Questionnaire

Sr. No	Questions	Response of Students	
		Yes	No
1	Have you heard about organ donation and transplantation?	237 (96.3%)	9 (3.7%)
2	From where do you come to know about Organ donation and transplantation (Newspaper, TV, Internet, Family members)	N:48 (20.3%) T:140 (59%) I:17(7.1%) F:32(13.6%)	-
3	Do you think organ donation can save life?	237(96.3%)	9 (3.7%)
4	Do you feel timely removal can affect success of transplantation?	191 (77.6%)	55 (22.4%)
5	Do you know any legal provision available to regulate organ donation and transplantation?	201 (81.7%)	45 (18.3%)
6	Are aware about transplantation of human organ and tissue act?	87 (35.4%)	159 (64.6%)
7	Are you aware about brain dead concept?	231 (93.9%)	15(6.1%)
8	Can a living individual donate organ?	187 (76%)	59 (24%)
9	Is kidney the most commonly donated organ?	198 (80.5%)	48 (19.5%)
10	Do you think that buying or selling of an organ is punishable?	174 (70.7%)	72 (29.3%)
11	Are you aware about NOTTO, ROTTO and SOTTO?	32 (13%)	214 (87%)

12	Is family consent is required to retrieve organs?	227 (92.3%)	19 (7.3%)
13	Will you motivate your friends or relative for organ donation?	241 (97.9%)	5 (2.1%)
14	Do you support organ donation and transplantation for saving lives?	242 (98.3%)	4 (1.7%)

RESULT AND DISCUSSIONS

Out of 246 students, majority of students (96.3%) responded that they have heard about organ donation and transplantation. Similar findings were reported by other researcher as well⁴. The students who affirmed that they have heard about Organ Donation and Transplantation, further stated that they came to know about this information majority from television (59%) and newspapers (20.3%). Similar observation for the said sources were observed by other researchers in their study⁶. Students are tech friendly so they are in contact with the advances elsewhere through media. Apart from entertainment they are still able reach the meaningful content through media.

Majority of students (77.6%) responded that timely removal and transplantation can affect the success rate. Such significance of time has been stated by other author in their study⁷. Fully oxygenated organs and speedy removal will always going to enhance successful transplantation rate. Students affirmation for the factor of time is appreciated here. Majority of students (96.3%) were aware that organ donation can safeguard one's life. Medical graduate are aware that a dying person can save the life of others who are in need of organ donation. Similar observations were reported by other researchers as well^{8,9}. 80.5% students responded that kidney is the most commonly involved organ as far as organ donation is concern. Similar observation was reported well supported by other study¹⁰.

81.7% students responded that there is existence some legal provisions which govern and regulate the activities involving organ donation transplantation. Though only 35.4% students were aware about transplantation of human organ and tissues act. Similar findings were observed by in other study as well¹¹. So the students are not having in depth knowledge for laws or acts attributed to address major health issues in community but they were bit aware that some laws will come into picture if there is contravention. Only 13% students were aware about NOTTO, ROTTO and SOTTO. Such unawareness was uncovered in similar study¹². Majority students (70.7%) were still having information in their back of mind that buying or selling of organ is punishable.

92.3% students stated that consent of family member will be required before organ removal which is supported by similar finding⁴. The knowledge regarding consent may be a part of general knowledge on their part or it may be because medical ethics is being taught in their early phase of semester. 97.9% student showed preparedness for motivating friends and relatives about organ donation which is well supported by similar finding by other researcher¹⁰. Similar number of students also showed their interest in support of organ donation and transplantation. Similar observation regarding positive attitude of students was reported in other study as well.

CONCLUSION

This study reveal that majority of students are aware about organ donation and transplantation because of media and they are also aware about significance of it in saving lives. Though they are aware about existence of laws which governs and regulate organ donation and transplantation but majority of students lack in depth knowledge of actual acts and legal provisions. So awareness about transplantation of human organs and tissues act is required amongst students so they can become legally sound about the same and it will help

them for safe clinical practice in future. It is appreciated that students showed positive attitude by showing readiness to motivate others for organ donation and transplantation and they extended their support for this noble cause as well which shows their keenness to disseminate information about this life saving event which ultimately will contribute to health care system and definitely help mankind.

Limitation of Study: The samples size is smaller. So to generalized the results, study shall be conducted on large sample size.

Conflict of Interest: Nil

Source of Funding: Nil

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