



**DR.RAMANAVAR FOUNDATION BAILHONGAL - A CHARITABLE BODY
DONATION FOUNDATION**

Anatomy

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KEYWORDS

Donation is a gift for charity, humanitarian aid or a benefit for any other cause. Some societies are involved in accepting donation towards different services rendered .Yet there are some societies who are voluntarily involved in performing selfless service for the benefit of humanity. This is the best example of charity though very seldom seen in modern times.

History of body donation is as old as 'Puranas' (Sacred writing of Hindu religion) of India. On the request of Lord Indra, the Great Sage, Dadhichi donated his body by leaving it employing power of yoga ,whereby his bones were used for making 'Vajra' (weapon) to perish 'Asuras' (devil powers)(Tripathi,2011).

Sage Sushruta, Father of Surgery, learnt human anatomy by dissecting preserved dead bodies implying body donation was done for medical education purpose on those days. This is the first of its kind in history (Sharma, 2000).In 15th century Barber surgeons assisted professors to demonstrate body parts (Rokade, Bahetee 2013). Prof. Vasaleus was the first known Anatomist of modern times who demonstrated and taught human body parts by dissecting himself (Rath,Garg 2006). Demand for cadaver arose when dissection was included in medical education. Anatomy Act(USA 1831 , UK 1832 , India 1948) changed the scenario whereby deceased body donated by kin or any unclaimed body could be used for dissection purpose(Rokade ,Bahetee 2013).

Several times the institutions where dead body is needed request for help from different individuals and societies or groups. A high amount of currency has to be given in exchange .In India, many times the money is unaffordable to institutions. Here comes a great solace to all,"Dr. Ramannavar Charitable Trust" and "Dr. Ramannavar Foundation Bailhongal" (DRFB).

The details follow, the inspiration to form the present foundation is from late Dr.Ramannavar who himself has pledged his body for dissection and also wished this is done by his son ,Dr M B Ramannavar, who is Head of the Department of Anatomy at KAHER's Shri B M K Ayurveda Mahavidyalaya .His last wish was fulfilled by his son(Prasad,Skandhan 2019).The charitable trust was formed in 2009 and the DRFB was formed in 2015.Charitable trust has 3 and DRFB has 7 active members and Dr. M B Ramannavar is the Secretary of both. This foundation is registered under the provision of State Government of Karnataka; Reg No. BLG-4-00001-2009-10, BLGD5

The major work carried out by the foundation is maintaining the list of body donors and on the information of any death; the needy institution is informed which collects the body from the spot. Under the auspices of this foundation till date 485 dead bodies were registered and 22 of them were donated and supplied to different Medical, Ayurveda , Homeopathic and Unani Colleges in this country, mainly in the Province of Karnataka. Most noticeably one Swamiji, a head priest of one Hindu temple, has also registered his body for donation after his death. DRFB is purely a charitable foundation. Voluntary donations received from individuals, organizations or an institution which is

generously used for upliftment of socially downtrodden. Thus receiving institutions have a large support from this Foundation. They spend a meager amount alone on transportation of body.

One of the main targets of the Foundation is to create awareness among public and educate them about body and organ donation. Towards fulfilling this till date more than 80 awareness programs are conducted at different places. On several occasions along with Secretary and members of the Foundation, religious leaders or temple heads (Swamiji) accompanied and addressed the crowd. In Karnataka Province Awareness programs are mainly conducted in Belagavi district. It is also being done outside the Province of Karnataka. Province of Orissa (Cuttak),West Bengal (Calcutta) and Rajasthan (Jaipur) were other beneficiaries. Many times classes are supported by videos, power point presentations or street plays.

Noticeably in one of body donation awareness programs, 108 adult members of a village named Shegunasi, in the Province of Karnataka, pledged to donate their bodies.

A highly appreciable part with Foundation is, members of the Foundation and general public show high respect to the dead body. On arrival of a dead body, prayers – "Dhanvantaristavan",Prayer to God Dhanvantari, Lord of Ayurveda are chanted and followed by taking cadaveric oath - and accept the body respectfully and place it at proper place. Attention is paid to cover private areas of the body (Murty2015).

Accommodating the sentiment of donors of Hindu religion, on demand of kin or relative of dead, a small portion from a finger is separated and given, which they treat as equivalent to whole body and do rituals. Selfless service of DRFB for a noble cause may promote others to work similar.

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