



## ORIGINAL RESEARCH PAPER

## Medical Science

## VOLUNTARY BLOOD DONATION BY ALL FEMALE DONORS IN A VILLAGE OF INDIA- A SHORT-COMMUNICATION

**KEY WORDS:** Female donors, voluntary blood donation

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Human blood is essential life- saving element with no substitute. The classification of blood and blood products as drug under the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act as well as Biologics under the Public Health Service Act. The use of whole blood is now well accepted in many major surgical and medical emergencies. Blood transfusion has been responsible for saving millions of lives each year around the world. Though the quantity and quality of blood pool available for transfusions is still a major concern across the globe, especially in the developing countries. [1]

India has four types of blood banks from administrative point of view. They are organised by the government sector, Indian Red Cross Society, nongovernment organizations and commercial sectors. [2]

Blood donors across the globe, as well as in India include three broad categories – voluntary donors, replacement donors and professional donors. Voluntary donors are nonremunerated donors who donate blood voluntarily without any inducements such as money or any other substitute of money. For the society such donations are very useful and provide adequate round the clock availability of safe blood during emergent situations. Replacement donations are provided by the relatives of patients who need blood either on urgent basis or for anticipated blood transfusion during planned surgeries. Professional donors donate blood in exchange for money which is unethical and illegal. Although under certain circumstances, replacement and professional donors may be compelled to donate blood but they do not help us to maintain a stock of blood for crisis situations and do not provide for blood of relatively rare blood groups, thus, indicating the need and importance of voluntary blood donations. Now a day voluntary blood donation is increasing by health education and mass media awareness and motivation and counselling. The government is promoting voluntary blood donation through both electronic and print media. [3,4,5]. WHO estimates that blood donation by at least 1% of the population is sufficient to meet a country's basic requirements for safe blood. [6]

Among all the blood donors female donors are significantly low and that may be due to cultural and religious issues such as women's dependence on men, erroneous beliefs. Menstrual blood loss, poor nutrition, pregnancy and breastfeeding further restrict many women from donating blood. Majority of the blood camps are organized during day time and most of the female members of the family are involved in household activities at that point of time. They could not manage enough motivation and a sense of erroneous belief that their household activities will be jeopardize if they participate in blood donation. A constant motivation of the female members of the family and their husbands and parents is required either in educational institutions or through local health workers. [7,8]

A voluntary blood donation camp has been conducted by Khatra Sub-divisional Blood Bank, West Bengal in a village of Bankura district in the month of January 2018, where all the blood donors were female. 33 donors were selected for blood donation after proper screening and counselling and 3 were deferred because of hypertension. Donors age range 19-57 years, maximum in the age group 31-43years 20 (60.60%), followed by 18-30 years 10 (30.30%), 44-56 years 2 (6.06%), >56 years 1 (3.03%). Most of the donors were homemakers and rest were students.

There is a need to stress on the fact that blood donation is essentially risk-free for healthy individuals. An enthusiastic effort by the authority can bring a great change in the present scenario of voluntary blood donation involving the females in a significant manner. It will not only improve stock of blood available to reduce mortalities but also reduce donation by professional donors. We believe that real contribution of doctors to society lies not only in treating people but also spreading awareness and clearing their misconceptions. It should be emphasised that government and local authorities should formulate a team to generate awareness among the common people by multi-sectorial coordination.

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