

Assessment of Knowledge and attitude about Medicolegal Aspect of Organ Donation amongst Medical Students

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Abstract

Organ Donation is one the lifesaving procedure for many critically ill patients with organ failure. Even if the various advanced and modern medical science and technology, there is Scarcity of organs led to big gap between the demand and Supply of organs with number of donors. Present study was conducted At Jawaharlal Nehru medical college DMIMS, Wardha. It was a cross sectional study and second year medical students who were willing to participate included in the study. After taking their informed consent total of 100 students, brief introduction about the scope of our study, general demographic data was collected. Most of the students answered correctly the knowledge based questions on Organ Donation Appropriate knowledge and a positive attitude by health science students could play a crucial role in shaping public perspective.

Keywords: Organ donation, Knowledge, Attitude, Medical students, Donor

Introduction

Organ Donation is one the lifesaving procedure for many critically ill patients with organ failure. Even if the various advanced and modern medical science and technology, there is Scarcity of organs led to big gap between the demand and Supply of organs with number of donors. The medical science has made drastic advancement in the field on in the past few decades which lead to saving and improving condition of patient with organ failure.

A Lack of awareness plays an important role in limited availability of donor organ, and associated legal and details of organ donation in the general population and in health care professionals.

Health care professional constitute the group that should be most knowledgeable in the area of organ translation and donation and they are the most critical link in the organ procurement process¹

Health care professionals are the first person to build the a relationship with the family of donor and health care providers have an opportunity to up thrust the option of organ donation. It has been suggested that a positive attitude of health professionals toward organ donation can influence a potential donor family's decision to consent²

Main reasons for a shortfall in transplantable organs in all countries are Lack of awareness amongst healthcare professionals to identify brain-dead patients as a potential donor is one reason. Organ donation from brain-dead patients is a particularly contentious, following recent legal recognition of brain death within the cultural context of Confucian beliefs³

Nurses, physicians and health care professionals also responsible for requesting organ donation from the family of a brain-dead patient. Since they are in direct contact with patient care and relative's . Health care professional hypothesized that staff support, knowledge, and training levels would be significantly associated

with organ donation rates. ⁴

The knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary for physicians and nurses to promote good end-of-life decision-making are widely variable. Active Participation require for those making requests of families for organ donation and should receive training related to procedure. ⁵

Material and Methods

This study was conducted At Jawaharlal Nehru medical college DMIMS, Wardha. It was a cross sectional study and second year students who were willing to participate included in the study. After taking their informed consent total of 100 students, brief introduction about the scope of our study, general demographic data was collected.

Complete procedures involved in the study was explained to them and the assurance of confidentiality of the data collected was given. Structured questionnaire on knowledge and attitude was sent by internet to every participant.

Results: All 100 students had replied positively, out of these 53% were female and 47% male as depicted in **Table 1**

Table 1: Gender wise distribution of Allied Health Care Professional students

Gender	Number (n=100)	Percentage
Male	47	47%
Female	53	53%

Most of the students answered correctly the knowledge based questions on Organ Donation related to disease and infective status of patient 98 % and 91% respectively. Response about human organ transplantation act and amendments was 75%, 68% respectively

Response related to consent and matching of Blood group answered correctly by 89% and 94% respectively in **Table No.2**

Table 2 Distribution of Students as Per Knowledge of Organ Donation

Sr.No	Knowledge about of Organ Donation	Response % Answering correctly
1	Have you heard of organ donation term?	98%
2	Organ donation is legal in India	91%
3	Are you acquainted with the transplantation of human organs act?	75%
4	Are you aware of the various amendments in transplantation of human organs act?	68%
5	Organ of a brain dead patient can be donated?	76%
6	Blood group of Donor and recipient must be matched before donation and transplant	89%
7	Consent is required In case of Organ Donation	94%
8	Patients with HIV and HBV can donate organs	96%
9	Authorized centre is required for organ donation	95%
10	Organ Donation should be applied to all persons regardless of socioeconomic status	78%

Table 3: Distribution of as per their attitude towards Organ Donation

Sr No.	Attitude towards Organ Donation	Strongly Agree (%)	Agree (%)	Not sure (%)	Disagree (%)	Strongly Disagree (%)
1	Do you feel comfortable to talk about organ donation with family members	88	5	2	3	2
2	Do you give approval to donate organs when you die	68	12	8	9	3
3	Do you give approval to donate your family member's organs	61	8	19	7	5
4	Do you have doubt that your body will be damaged following organ donation	72	3	18	3	4
5	Do you think it is duty of health care professionals to give information regarding organ Donation to Patient and relatives	82	7	4	4	3

Attitude of students about organ donation, almost all respondents agreed on discussing organ donation with family member and most of the participant response positively about donation of organ 88 % and 68 % respectively And also agrees that its duty of health care professionals to give information regarding organ donation to Patient and relatives.

Discussion

In modern era, India witnessed its first successful corneal, kidney and cardiac transplant in the year 1960, 1967 and 1994 though the reverberations for organ donation and transplantation⁶. The legislation called the Transplantation of Human Organ Act was passed in India in 1994 to streamline organ donation and transplantation activities. Broadly, the act accepted brain death as a form of death and made the sale of organs a punishable offence⁷.

Patthi et al reveals that there was significant knowledge gap exists amongst the undergraduates and the general population for organ donation. The positive influence of educational intervention emphasizes the need of an intervention to bring positive changes thereby highlighting the significance of health education.⁸

Sucharitha et al found that there is a positive attitude of medical students towards organ donation but there is lack of sufficient knowledge on the topic. Improving their knowledge by including organ donation topic in medical curriculum can help to reduce this gap.⁹

Schaeffner et al found that knowledge and positive attitude in medical education is toward organ donation are more likely to hold an organ donor card and also feel more comfortable in approaching relatives of potential organ donors.¹⁰

Similarly Marqués-Lespier found in his study that the students of health sciences professions have an

Optimistic attitude towards organ donation. Although a considerable shortfall of knowledge of organ donation amongst is a barrier to their taking the necessary measures to become active donors¹¹

Conclusion

A positive attitude and relevant knowledge of health science students could play a crucial part in shaping public outlook. The CBME and Integrated teaching in medical curriculum must highlight and focus on the importance of organ donation, concept of brainstem death. This significantly associated with organ donation rates.

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