

Attitude and awareness towards organ donation in Rajasthan.

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Abstract

Background- The issue of organ donation is a multifactorial and complex one, involving legal, ethical, medical, organizational, and social factors.

Methods- A cross-sectional study was done among 100 adult participants aged 18 years and above. Participants were randomly selected. All the selected participants gave their verbal consent to participate in this study. Respondents were interviewed by the authors with a formulated questionnaire which was made keeping in mind various local factors that may influence organ donation.

Result- Among the participants of 100, 74 were aware of term organ donation, whereas 26 participants had never heard of the term organ donation. Among the 26 participants who were unaware of the term organ donation, it was found that 6 had completed graduation. About 52% people came to know about organ donation through medical fraternity, whereas only about 38% became aware through print and electronic media.

Conclusion- This would require active involvement of healthcare, media, religious and political persons, and such an informed awareness would go a long way in improving the expectancy of patients in need.

Keywords- Attitude, awareness, organ donation.

Introduction

The issue of organ donation is a multifactorial and complex one, involving legal, ethical, medical, organizational, and social factors. Organ shortage is a global problem, but India lags far behind the western world¹. Organ donation following brain stem death is uncommon in India. The current organ donation rate for cadaver in India is 0.08 per million, while Spain tops the list with 35 per million.²There is a huge shortage of organs in India, and majority of organ failure patients die while on the waiting list for lack of timely availability of organs. Only 5% of all patients with end-stage kidney disease undergo kidney transplantation in India. Legislation for human organ donation in India came in 1994 in the form of “The transplantation of Human Organs Act, 1994”.⁷ Yet even 20 years since the country passed the act, only kidney donations by live donors are in vogue and cadaver donations are still very few. Certification and declaration of brain death is mandatory in transplant hospitals and in non-transplant organ retrieval centers registered under the Human Organs Transplant Act, 1994³.

The purpose of this study was to assess knowledge, attitude and practices about organ donation.

Materials and Methods

A cross-sectional study was done among 100 adult participants aged 18 years and above.

Exclusion criteria were:

- (1) people or their families who have undergone transplantation
- (2) persons working with or related to organ donation centers.

Participants were randomly selected. All the selected participants gave their verbal consent to participate in this study. Respondents were interviewed by the authors with a formulated questionnaire which was made keeping in mind various local factors that may influence organ donation.

Knowledge of the respondents was assessed through questions regarding meaning of the term “organ donation”, awareness of donation by living people as well as cadavers, risks involved in organ donation, and the sources of information for their knowledge.

Data entry was made in excel software in codes and analysis was done by SPSS software. Descriptive statistical analysis, which included frequency, mean and percentages, was used to characterize the data.

Results

Table no.1.sociodemographic profile

Sociodemographic variables	Total participants (n=100)	Aware participants (n=74)
Age (Yrs)		
18-30	42	36
31-45	33	23
46-60	21	14
More than 60	4	1
Sex		
Male	76	61
Female	24	13

Education		
Illiterate	1	0
Secondary	13	8
Graduate	63	49
Post graduate	23	17
Religion		
Hindu	81	62
Muslim	19	12

Among the participants of 100, 74 were aware of term organ donation, whereas 26 participants had never heard of the term organ donation. Majority of aware participants were male. Among the 26 participants who were unaware of the term organ donation, it was found that 6 had completed graduation.

Table no. 2. Source of information about organ donation

Source of information	Frequency	Percentage
Doctor	52	52
Internet	4	4
TV	28	28
Radio	1	1
News paper	9	9
Friends	33	33

About 52% people came to know about organ donation through medical fraternity, whereas only about 38% became aware through print and electronic media. About 33% of people heard about organ donation through a friend or colleague.

Discussion

Among the participants of 100, 74 were aware of term organ donation, whereas 26 participants had never heard of the term organ donation. Majority of aware participants were male. Among the 26 participants who were unaware of the term organ donation, it was found that 6 had completed graduation. This awareness was quite high

compared to a study by Odusanya et al⁴. done in Nigeria which showed that 60% respondents heard of term organ donation.

About 52% people came to know about organ donation through medical fraternity, whereas only about 38% became aware through print and electronic media. About 33% of people heard about organ donation through a friend or colleague. A study done in California by Saub et al.⁵ revealed that speaking to a physician about organ donation positively influenced the likelihood to donate an organ. We feel that such a communication can be effective and may be utilized in general practice.

The spreading awareness regarding the Act that laid down the guidelines for organ transplantation in India becomes quintessential in the study region to bust any myths or prejudices and encourage informed willingness to donate.

Conclusion

This would require active involvement of healthcare, media, religious and political persons, and such an informed awareness would go a long way in improving the expectancy of patients in need.

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