



Original Research Article

Evaluation of Awareness on Organ Donation in Nursing Professionals at the Apex Medical Institute

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ABSTRACT

Background: Organ transplantation has been emerged as an emerging field of modern medical discipline i.e. regenerative medicine.

Aim: The aim of study was to assess level of awareness on Organ Donation in Nursing Professionals at the Apex Medical Institute for improve organ donation process.

Method: This is cross sectional study, in this study semi-structured questionnaire to assess level of awareness regarding organ donation were used.

Result: In this study, 97% of the nursing professionals were aware that organ could be donated during brain death.

Conclusion: Comprehensive measures can be taken by government to improve their conditions since satisfied workers are more motivated, productive and fulfilled.

Key Words: Organ donation, Professionals and Awareness etc.

INTRODUCTION

Life is a dynamic process. It starts from birth and ends into death. In between, human beings have to experience many changes, transitions, upheavals and impediments in life. Those things have the potentialities to cause significant stress and tensions in the life of human beings and we know that prolong exposure to stress inducing stimuli and events can be posed as the precursors of many life threatening disorders, diseases or even unprecedented traumatic life events. Because of diseases, disorders and traumatic incidents many people may have to experience major

dysfunctions in their vital internal organs and the functionality of those organs tends to become very low. So these people do not have much option for extending their life; at least conventional medical approaches do not have any answer to their problems and they are left with only one option, i.e. 'immediate transplantation of their diseased and malfunctioning organs' Now modern medical science or more specifically surgical approaches have shown lots of promises in treating those conditions which were previously thought to be incurable and untreatable. The advancement in surgical approaches and use of modern technology

has opened a new vista for people with most difficult ailments. Before stepping into the main parts of organ transplantation and organ donation we need to have a clear insight about the subtle aspects of this issue. In literary sense organ transplantation suggests the process of moving of an organ from the body of one individual to another individual or from a donor site to another location on the person's own body, and this process is done to replace the recipient's damaged or absent organ. Organ transplantation has been emerged as an emerging field of modern medical discipline i.e. regenerative medicine. This stream is fetching many opportunities for people with serious illness by allowing scientists and technocrats to create or re-grow organs even from the ailing person's own cells (e.g. stem cells, or cells derived from the malfunctioning organs) (Manara et al., 2011). In organ donation healthy organs and tissues from one person are taken and transplanted into the body of ailing person. It was observed that the organs from one donor can save the lives of nearly 50 people. Organs like Kidneys, heart, liver, pancreas, intestines, lungs, skin, bone and bone marrow and cornea can be donated to ailing individuals. In most cases organ and tissue donations occur after the death of the donor. But some organs and tissues can also be donated while the donor is alive (Medline Plus). Organ transplantation can give a new lease of life for patients with irreversible organ failure. It is a matter of great regret that thousands of those patients eventually die because there are not enough donated organs to meet the increased demand (JAMA Patient Page, 2008). Despite the burgeoning needs of organs, people still have lots of misconceptions and prejudices about organ donations. The organ donation and transplantation system entails a complex practice and this system has temporal

relationship with many individualized and social factors like individual attitudes, social structures, cultural practices and religious beliefs (McGlade & Pierscionek, 2013). Three decades back Manninen and Evans (1985) conducted a large scale telephonic survey of a nationally representative sample of 2,056 people in USA to assess the public attitudes and perceptions toward organ donation. These authors found that approximately nearly 94% of the selected population had heard about organ transplantation, but only 19% of them had the donor cards. These authors found that more respondents thought that organ donations can best be made from a relative of the ailing person who had just died (53%) and 50% of the respondents said that it is better to donate their own organs for saving their ailing relative. People were most likely to donate kidneys (50%) and least likely to donate skin (40%). Most of the respondents (58%) had the feeling that next of kin should not be able to override a person's desire to donate organs as signified by an organ donor card. Very few people (7%) supported the concept of presumed consent with regards to organ donation. In Turkey Bilgel et al (1991) conducted a survey to measure the public attitudes toward organ donation and transplantation. They selected 1030 subjects stratified random sampling method. Results suggested that 50.5% of the selected respondents had expressed their willingness to donate their organs while 33.7% expressed unwillingness and 15.8% were uncertain. A total of 53.6% said they would give their consent to donate their deceased relative's organs to needy people. Major reasons for refusing the organ donations were found to be: fear of cutting of the body into pieces (43.8%), religious beliefs (26.2%), no reason (23.1%) and the belief that their bodies would of need for their second life (6.9%). Attitudes toward organ donation had been found to have temporal

relationship with the level of education, age, sex, and socioeconomic status. McGlade and Pierscionek (2013) conducted a study for assessing the role of special training and awareness programme on organ donation for trainee nurses for shaping up their attitudes and knowledge on organ donations. In this study 100 pre-registration nurses were recruited from a Northern Ireland based University during the period from February to April 2011. Majority of these nurses were females with the mean age of 24.3 ± 6.0 years. At the end these authors had found that this kind of awareness programme can definitely increase the knowledge of this group and shape up their attitudes to organ donation in positive manner. There are lots of evidences which suggest that clinical professionals like nurses also do not have adequate information as well as working experiences about organ donation and transplantation. Evidences also showed that even medical students do not possess adequate knowledge about organ donation. The chief reason behind the inadequacy of information as well as improper attitudes about organ donation in clinical professionals is the adoption of non-systematic approach while giving training about organ donation and transplantation (Molzahn, 1997; Wight et al., 1998; Ozdag, 2001; Akgün et al., 2003; Smith & McGee, 2004; Zambudio et al., 2009; Anker et al., 2009; Demir et al., 2011). It was seen in USA that many student nurses have ambiguous or improper information about the concept of brain death and very often issues related to brain death and cardiac death are neglected in the training. Clinical professionals have also been observed to have lack of knowledge and skills to initiate discussion about organ donation or how to educate common people about the subtle aspects of organ donation (Anker et al., 2009). In India organ transplantation and donation has not been able to get the

attention of common people as well as clinical professionals. But in this country the issue of organ donation has to be given paramount importance to cater the increased need of people. A large section of the common people and even trained clinicians do possess very limited and faulty ideas and notions about organ donation.

Hence the investigator keeping the above view in mind felt to undertake this study among staff nurses who have a key function in asking for potential organ donors. Also as a part of health care providers, nurses are expected to come forward to motivate themselves and other public for organ donation. Moreover with the evidence of literatures, lack of knowledge regarding organ donation among nurses invites planned teaching programme to be conducted. In addition to this the personal experience also motivated the investigator to organise a planned teaching programme assisted by video teaching among staff nurses which may help to enhance the knowledge regarding organ donation.

Aim & Objectives: The aim of study was to assess level of awareness on Organ Donation in Nursing Professionals at the Apex Medical Institute for improve organ donation process.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

This cross-sectional study has been performed during the period from 15 December to 15 January, 2015. Participants involved 50 nurses from the several areas in PGIMER, Chandigarh - Advanced Trauma Centre, Emergency O.P.D., I.C.U, Cardio Thoracis surgery, vascular surgery, Neurosurgery, Urology, Nephrology, Haematology and Center for the receipt and care of emergency situations. In this study semi-structured questionnaire to assess level of awareness regarding organ donation were used. The first part was related to general

questions (gender, years of experience, level of education), and the second part examined the awareness about organ donation in nursing professionals. The informed consent was taken to the subject. The methods of descriptive and analytical statistics were used. Continuous variables were shown as average values standard deviation. Categorical variables were presented as percentages. SPSS software for Windows, version 22.0 was used for data processing.

RESULT

Table No-1 General information on respondents (N=50)

Variables	Answer	%
Sex	Male	10
	Female	90
Religion	Hindu	38
	Sikh	40
	Christian	20
	Muslim	2
Work Experience(In Years)	<5	15
	5-10	18
	10-20	30
	20-30	30
Educational Qualification	>30	7
	Diploma	28
	Bachelor Degree	62
	Master Degree	10
Marital Status	Unmarried	20
	Married	78
	Widow/Separate	2
Domicile	Rural	10
	Urban	90
Types of Job	Regular	98
	Temporary	2

Table No-2 Awareness on Organ Donation in Nursing Professionals (N=50)

Question	Answer	%
1. Do you know about Organ Donation	Yes	100
	No	0
2. Source of awareness	Hospital Staff	68
	Peer Group	10
	Media	22
3. Is there any age limit for Organ Donation	Yes	10
	No	90
4. Who can't donate organ	Next of Kin	22
	Any Body	78
5. Do you know about brain death	Yes	100
	No	0
6. Is brain death different from a coma?	Yes	78
	No	22
7. Do you know about brain death is complete death	Yes	34
	No	66
8. Do you know when to contact for organ donation	Yes	90
	No	10
9. Whom to contact for organ donation	Yes	92
	No	8
10. Do you know which organ you can donate	Yes	96
	No	4
11. Organ Donation is against your religion	Yes	4
	No	96
12. Any stigma related to organ donation	Yes	4
	No	96
13. Any religious or cultural belief barrier in organ donation	Yes	16
	No	84
14. Any legal procedure difficult to organ donation	Yes	12
	No	88
15. Any training/workshop required for organ donation within the hospital	Yes	96
	No	4

DISCUSSION

This study was intended to assess the level of awareness about organ donation in nursing professionals working at Apex Medical Institute. This study happens to be one of the primary studies which aim to

measure level of awareness about organ donation of clinical professionals working in tertiary hospitals. The mean age of the nursing professional is 39.86. Majority of the respondents were female, (see the table) married, urban background & educated with

Graduate relevant to nursing professional. Present study revealed that most of the respondent working as regular basis & doing patient care activities in health care. In this study, 97% of the nursing professionals were aware that organ could be donated during brain death, the similar were found others. (Singh Petal, 2002).Hospital staff and mass media were important sources of information on organ donation.

CONCLUSIONS & IMPLICATION

The present study revealed that nursing professionals were well aware of organ donation and most of them were inclined to pledge for organ donation. The perceived reasons for not donation organs need to consider while creating awareness about organ donation in the community. The nursing professional could be actively involved as volunteers in organ donation campaigns, wherein after proper training in counseling techniques, they can act as counselors for organ donation. They can also contribute by participating in creating awareness and motivating the people for organ donation during their posting in community medicine. Comprehensive measures can be taken by government to improve their conditions since satisfied workers are more motivated, productive and fulfilled. They can also contribute to awareness in organ donation.

Limitation & future directions: Sample size is limited although the shared results only indicate the preliminary findings of the pilot of the comprehensive ongoing study. Gender-specific results could not be generalized for the whole respondents of the population. A longitudinal design including other domains e.g., attitude, expressed emotions of nursing professionals could yield a more comprehensive picture.

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