

Original Research Article

A Study of Knowledge, Attitude and Willingness of the Population towards Organ Donation

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ABSTRACT

Organ donation is a process where healthy organs are donated from the donor to the recipient who is in the need of transplantation. Transplantation process helps in curing many of diseases. Some organs of the body can be donated during life while some can be donated after life. Many diseases occur because of failure of organ or damage caused to organs. Kidney failure, liver failure, heart failure is some of the diseases which results from the damage of the organs. Most of the medicines cannot treat this diseases thus transplantation of the organ plays a vital role in the treatment of the patients. On donation of healthy organ by a healthy donor, the organ can be implanted into the patient and thus the damage can be cured. Due of misconceptions and religious beliefs, people refuses to donate their organs and show unwillingness towards the organ donation process. People are unaware of the current requirement for the organs for cure of diseases and illness. The benefits of the organ donation are not fully known to this people. Unawareness and false concepts about organ donation is the main reason for the less availability of the organs to be donated. The main focus of this case study is to determine the proportion of people wanting to donate their organs and not willing to donate their organs. It also made people aware of current situation and requirement for the organ for treatment. By informing people about the current demand and necessities of the organ for the treatment of many patients and giving a brief description about the welfare of society, enlightenment of people about the process of organ donation was done during this case study programme.

Key words: Organ donation, organ failure, treatment, misconceptions, awareness, enlightenment.

INTRODUCTION

Organ donation is a process where a person is allowed to donate his healthy organ during or after his life. The most successful and preferred treatment for organ failure and end stage organ disease is the organ donation. ^[1] Organs such as heart, skin, kidney, pancreas, intestine, lung, liver and eyes can be transplanted. The need for organ required for the transplant and the organs available for it are not equal in number. There is a huge gap between them. Alike developed countries ^[2] in India, a situation exist where there are insufficient

organs for the transplantation process. ^[3] For the successful transplantation program, positive attitude of the people, awareness about the shortage of organ

Required for the treatment of patients and the need for organ donation are the most vital parameters. ^[4] Religious beliefs and superstitions, lack of understanding and knowledge of organ donation process has generated mistrust about organ donation in the minds of common people. ^[3,5] This mind set is the cause for the shortage of organs. Studies have been done on Nursing and Medical

students towards their attitude and perception and to improve and enhance their thinking towards organ donation programme in their life. [4] A case study in India reported two deaths due to live liver, kidney and unrelated living donation programs. [6] Even though kidney donation is safe, in India due to increased risk of diabetes and hypertension the donor's health is at high risk. It was reported that after nephrectomy 86% of participants showed decline in their health status. However, due to lack of palliative care after the operation no attempts were made to combat infection in the donor. [7] Potential donors need to be safe guarded from being victimized, in emergent countries like India. At least this would include imparting knowledge to people about the adverse consequences about selling a kidney. [8] This case study was carried out to assess people perception about organ donation process.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Data was collected using a questionnaire at the following locations K.J. Somaiya College of Science and Commerce, Vidyavihar, Mumbai, India; Abhudaya nagar, Kalachowki, Cotton green, Mumbai, India and Madonna Colony, Borivali, Mumbai, India were the areas taken under the case study. The questionnaire included many vital questions regarding the knowledge of people about the organ donation and the institutions where it is carried out. The questionnaire determined the knowledge of people about organ donation and their attitude towards it, will ingested to donate organs after or during life. From the age groups of 15 to 80 years people were asked questions of the case study programme. Males and females both were taken into account. The data collection was done in the month of July 2016.

RESULTS

A. Comparison of subjects according to age groups wanting to donate their organs.

Depending on the question no.5 from the questionnaire, it was concluded that females of 15-20 and 20-40 years of age group showed maximum willingness to donate their organs.

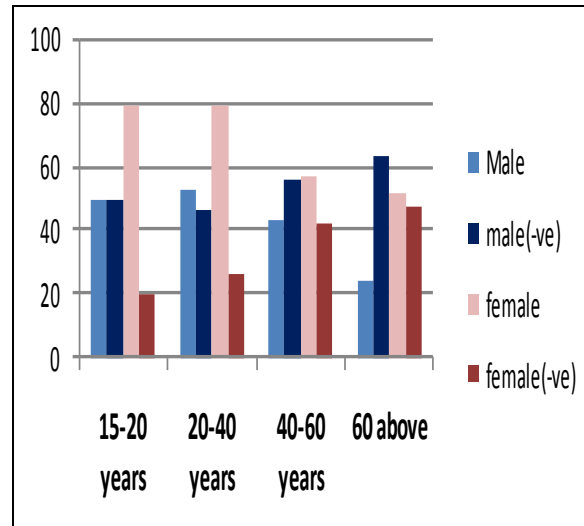


Figure no. 1: People willing and not willing to donate their organs

B. Awareness of Organ Donation Institutions

From the question no 5 of the questionnaire, it was concluded that majority of men of 40-60 years of age were aware of the institutions carrying out the process of organ donation.

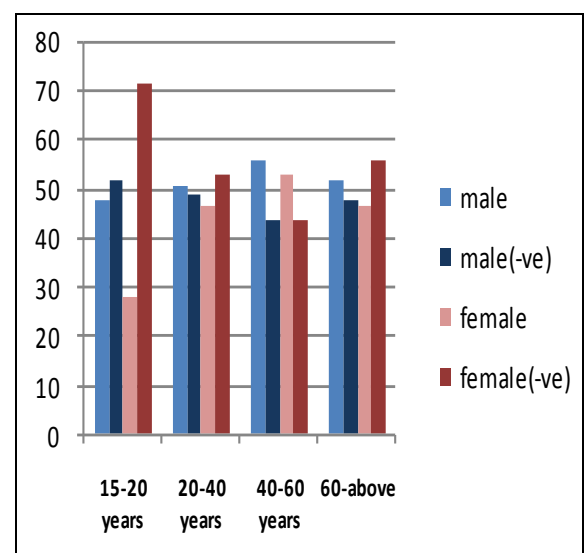


Figure no. 2: Number of people knowing about the institutions/hospitals carrying out organ donation process

C. Total number of males and females willing to donate their organs

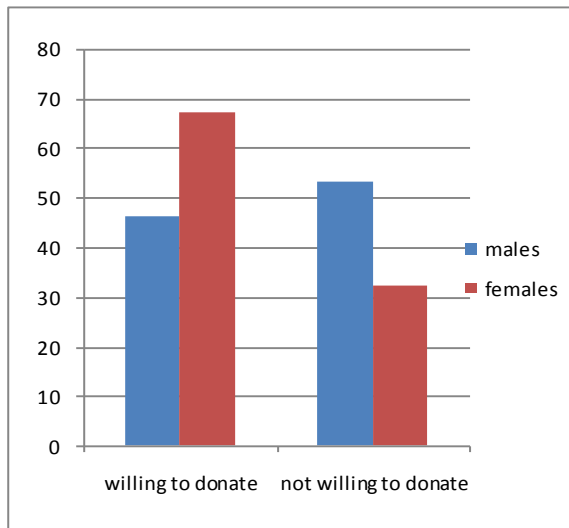


Figure no. 3: Percentage of females and males willing and not willing to donate their organs

DISCUSSION

The study included 500 people of age groups from 15 to 80 years. From the statistical data obtained, it was observed that more females were optimistic about the organ donation program. Men did not show willingness towards the organ donation process and thus bordering pessimistic attitude. Many of the people did not want to donate organ because of myth, religious beliefs and superstitions, lack of understanding about organ donation and lack of family support. This attitude of the people is responsible for the shortage of organs. Shortage of organs has caused number of deaths of the patients and is parallel with the individuals on the transplant waiting list. Thus conveying people about the misconception to organ donation would encourage and motivate more people for organ donation. In India increase in fatal road accidents has increased deceased donation. Thus there is a need for awareness regarding organ donation among the ill. [4] More awareness about organ donation can be done by approaching media, hospitals, and organ donation organizations. Media play a significant role in being information source regarding organ donation. [9] Gift of life

Institute in Australia conducted Twenty-six 2-day FDC training workshops in eight cities. As a result, a 22% increase in organ donors was achieved in the two years since the FDC training has been delivered (2011-2013) (GOL, 2013). In year 2000-2008, about eight hospitals in Hyderabad and roughly around five hospitals in Tamil Nadu shared 450 organs successfully (170 organs and 280 organs in Hyderabad and Tamil Nadu respectively). These were the efforts of the Organ Sharing Network that was opened by Mohan Foundation (a Non-Governmental Organization). [4,10] Similar such programs can be organized at Institute or by Government so as to influence more individuals for this cause.

CONCLUSION

This study shows the negative attitude towards organ donation due to myth, religious beliefs, superstitions, risks to donor during transplantation. It is necessary to remove the misconceptions from the minds of the people regarding the organ donation, motivate and encourage more number of people towards organ donation in their lives and thus increase the frequency at which public donates, making more organs available and decreasing the mortality of patients. More awareness programs would impart knowledge to people and take positive step towards organ donation process and give a good happy life for needy patients.

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