**Knowledge and Attitude among college students towards Organ Donation**

*Ms. Supriya Namdev Kadam,*
Final Year M.Sc. Nursing student,
Department of Mental Health Nursing,
supriyankadam@gmail.com

**BACKGROUND**

Organ donation is the donation of biological tissue or an organ of the human body from a dead or living person to a living recipient in order to save the life of the recipient. A living person can donate organ after natural death or after brain death. After natural death, few tissues only can be donated like cornea, bone, skin, blood vessels, whereas after brain death almost 37 different body organs can be donated including critical organs.¹

The laws of different countries allow potential donors to permit or refuse donation or give this choice to relatives. Thousands of lives are lost in India due to liver or heart failure. Since the transplantation of unpaired organs is either difficult or impossible, this is only possible on a large scale if these organs are available from cadaver donors. The need for greater willingness to donate organs has been well-documented. Over 4,000 people die each year because a suitable donor cannot be found. Recent statistics indicate that over 71,000 people are on organ transplant waiting lists. At least half are expected to die waiting because the waiting list has been growing at three times the rate of the available supply of organs. Yet, this need could be eliminated if all people who are eligible were willing to donate. The single greatest obstacle to increasing the number of patients who receive life-saving transplants is the scarcity of available organ donations. The only way to increase organ donations is to educate the public about the importance of becoming an organ donor.²

For any death where organ donation is a possibility and consent are given, there will be a medical assessment of what organs can be recovered. There are no
absolute age limits to organ donation. A handful of medical conditions will rule out organ donation, such as HIV-positive status, actively spreading cancer (except for primary brain tumours that have not spread beyond the brain stem), or certain severe, current infections. However, for most other diseases or chronic medical conditions, organ donation remains possible. Unfortunately, many people never indicate their wish to donate because they believe, falsely, that their age or medical condition would not allow them to donate. If you want to save and enhance lives through donation, the most important action you can take is to share your donation decision; if donation is not medically feasible, that determination will be made at the time of death.¹

**OBJECTIVES**

To assess knowledge of students towards organ donation.

To assess attitude of students towards organ donation.

To find association between selected demographic variables and knowledge of organ donation.

To find association between selected demographic variables and attitude of students towards organ donation.

**RESEARCH QUESTION**

1) What is the knowledge college students have towards organ donation?

2) What is the attitude of the college students towards organ donation?

**METHOD**

A survey research approach was used for this study. The study was carried out in selected college at Pune. The research design is descriptive quantitative survey research design. The sample comprised of 300 college students of selected college at selected areas. The students were selected by probability cluster sampling technique. The data collection was done in 4 weeks.

Formal written permission was obtained from the authorities to conduct the study and Assent consent was obtained from subject’s parents and Subjects prior to the data collection process. Data was collected by administering a self-administered knowledge questionnaire and attitude scale. After the data collection, the link of YouTube was shared through e-mail and WhatsApp to all the participants.

**RESULTS**

The findings revealed that demographic variables are

GENDER-majority (74.67%) were male and 25.33% were female. Hence it can be interpreted that most of the respondents were male.

RELIGION-majority 93.33% were Hindu and 4.67% were Muslims. Hence it can be interpreted that the most of the respondents were Hindu.

PLACE OF NATIVE-majority 98.67% were from urban area and 1.33% of the respondents were from rural area. Hence it can be interpreted that the most of the samples were from urban area.

TYPE OF FAMILY-majority 95.67% were from joint family and 4.33% were from nuclear family. Hence it can be
interpreted that the most of the samples were from joint family.

PREVIOUS KNOWLEDGE - higher percentage 83% did not have previous knowledge regarding organ donation, 17% of them had previous knowledge regarding organ donation. Hence it can be interpreted that the most of the samples under study didn’t have previous knowledge regarding organ donation.

The analysis of data related to knowledge of students towards organ donation majority of 37% of students had average knowledge score (07-10), 27.67% of them had good knowledge score (11-15) and 35.33% of them had poor knowledge score (0-06).

The analysis of data related to attitude of students towards organ donation is strongly agree (15.48%), Agree (19.97%), Disagree (21.19%) and strongly disagree are (43.36%).

Chi square values were calculated to find out the association between the knowledge score and demographic variables of students. The findings revealed that there was no significant association between knowledge score and socio demographic variables like, gender, religion, place, family and previous knowledge of the respondents.

Chi square values were calculated to find out the association between the attitude score and demographic variables of students. The findings revealed that there was no significant association between attitude score and
socio demographic variables like, gender, religion, place and family. However, a significant association was found between the attitude score and the previous knowledge of the students regarding organ donation.

**INTERPRETATION AND CONCLUSION**

The findings of the study on knowledge and attitude of students regarding organ donation suggests many implications for nursing education, nursing administration, nursing research and mental health nursing, for the proper intervention regarding donor.

The analysis of data related to knowledge of students towards organ donation

Majority of 37% of students had average knowledge score (07-10), 27.67% of them had good knowledge score (11-15) and 35.33% of them had poor knowledge score (0-06).

The analysis of data related to attitude of students towards organ donation is strongly agree (15.48%), Agree (19.97%), Disagree (21.19%) and strongly disagree are (43.36%).

The findings of the present study indicate that colleges student should be given proper and up to date information regarding organ donation, which will improve their knowledge and attitude regarding organ donation. Research helps the student build up the existing knowledge regarding organ donation and legal and ethical issues, guiding principles and implement their findings in their day to day life.

**REFERENCES**

University Press; 2004. p- 123, 50, 901, 624


