

Study of Knowledge And Attitudes Regarding Organ Donation In A Selected Student Population In Bellary City

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Background

Organ transplant programs are increasing in India with the major barrier to transplantation being a shortage of organs. The majority of Indian Nationals are reluctant and unwilling to donate or consent for donation. This study was undertaken to determine the knowledge, attitudes and practices regarding organ donation in a selected student population in Bellary.

Objectives

- To assess the knowledge and attitudes regarding organ donation in a selected student population in Bellary.
- To find independent predictors of knowledge levels and motivation of organ donation.

Methods

Simple random sampling was used to select the degree colleges and the sections within the colleges through lottery method and all the students were enrolled in the study. Data collection was done using a pretested and validated, close and open ended, self administered, anonymous questionnaire. Data was analyzed using Epi Info Version 3.4.3 and associations were tested using the Pearson's Chi square test. Multiple

logistic regression was used to find independent predictors of knowledge status and motivation of organ donation.

Results

A total of 340 students were approached for participation in our survey, 31 (9.1%) declined to participate in the study. Of the 309 students who gave consent to participate in the study, 293 completed the full interview. Both male and female students were almost equally distributed in our study sample, Majority of the students were Hindus(82%), 62% of students belong to low income group, most of the students belong to non medical field of education. 43% of students in this study achieved an adequate knowledge score for Organ Donation while remaining 57% had inadequate knowledge. In our study we found that the field of education, income group and region from which they hail from were found to have a significant association with knowledge scores of organ donation. About 42% of people expressed a high motivation to donate. Students with Higher the age group, students from Hindu religion and students with adequate knowledge levels were significantly associated with the motivation to donate. And these three significant variables were subjected to multiple logistic regression and we found that all three, ie Age group, Religion and knowledge levels emerged as significant independent predictors of motivation to organ donation.