



## Attitude and awareness towards organ donation in central Rajasthan

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### ABSTRACT:

Background- Organ donation (OD) is the cornerstone in the process of transplantation. There is a worldwide shortage of donor organs in comparison to the need for transplantation.

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..

Result- Among the participants of 100, 81 were aware of term organ donation, whereas 26 participants had never heard of the term organ donation. Majority of aware participants were male.

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: Knowledge, awareness, organ donation.

### INTRODUCTION:

Organ donation (OD) is the cornerstone in the process of transplantation. There is a worldwide shortage of donor organs in comparison to the need for transplantation. There is a significant relation between public attitude towards OD and availability of such organs . 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 world<sup>1</sup>.

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.<sup>2</sup> There 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’’.<sup>7</sup> 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, 1994<sup>3</sup>.

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.

Data entry was made in excel software in codes and analysis was done by SPSS software (version -22.00).

### Results:

**Table 1: sociodemographic profile**

Sociodemographic variables	Total participants (n=100)	Aware participants (n=81)
Age (Yrs)		
18-30	40	36
31-45	35	27
46-60	19	16
More than 60	6	2
Sex		
Male	77	67
Female	23	14
Education		
Illiterate	1	0
Secondary	15	9
Graduate	62	53
Post graduate	22	19
Religion		
Hindu	80	71
Muslim	20	10

Among the participants of 100, 81 were aware of term organ donation, whereas 26 participants had never heard of the term organ donation. Majority of aware participants were male.

**Table 2: Source of information about organ donation**

Source of information	Frequency	Percentage
Doctor	61	61
Internet	6	6
TV	26	26
Radio	1	1
News paper	11	11
Friends	16	16

About 61% people came to know about organ donation through medical fraternity, whereas only about 38% became aware through print and electronic media. About 16% of people heard about organ donation through a friend or colleague.

## Discussion

Among the participants of 100, 81 were aware of term organ donation, whereas 19 participants had never heard of the term organ donation. Majority of aware participants were male. This awareness was quite high compared to a study by Odusanya et al<sup>4</sup>. done in Nigeria which showed that 60% respondents heard of term organ donation.

About 61 % people came to know about organ donation through medical fraternity, whereas only about 38% became aware through print and electronic media. About 16% of people heard about organ donation through a friend or colleague. A study done in California by Saub et al.<sup>5</sup> 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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