

## Assess the knowledge regarding organ donation among people seeking health care

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### Abstract

Organ donation is a boon to the medical industry as it has helped in saving the lives of those who would have died otherwise. There is a great need for human organs for transplantation. In fact, the need exceeds the supply of transplantable organs. The shortage of organs has several reasons. Perhaps the most common is that people are hesitant to donate organs because they don't have adequate knowledge regarding it. In other cases people are reluctant to donate organs due to the false beliefs surrounding organ donation. Purpose of this study was to evaluate the level of knowledge regarding organ donation among people seeking health care. 10 people health care seeking were selected through the convenient sampling technique. Findings revealed that mean level of knowledge was 7.6 and there was a significant association of level of knowledge with educational qualification. Thus, the study revealed that people seeking health care had average knowledge.

**Keywords:** knowledge, organ donation, people seeking health care

### Introduction

“What you left behind is not what is engraved in stone monuments, but what is woven into the lives of others”<sup>[1]</sup>

“Pericles”

Organ donation is a boon to the medical industry as it has helped in saving the lives of those who would have died otherwise. There is a great need for human organs for transplantation. In fact, the need exceeds the supply of transplantable organs. The shortages of organs have several reasons. Perhaps the most common is that people are hesitant to donate organs because they don't have adequate knowledge regarding it. In other cases people are reluctant to donate organs due to the false beliefs surrounding organ donation<sup>[1]</sup>.

There is also a distinct lack of awareness among the general public in India about how immensely beneficial donating organs can prove to be for the recipients and their families. Most of the people needing transplantation belong to the young and middle age groups. Hence donating vital organs to a person belonging to these age groups can save a whole family from being ruined. There is also a superstition among people that by donating organs, they will be born deformed and disfigured in their next birth<sup>[2]</sup>.

New notified rules of transplant act of 2014 may help give boost to deceased donation in India and ease organ shortage. Thousands of lives are lost in India annually from heart and liver failure since transplantation of unpaired organs like heart, liver and pancreas is either difficult or impossible from living donors. It is only possible on a large scale if these organs are available from cadaver donors. There are millions of needy patients all over the world who suffer from various end stage organ failures and whose lives can be saved only by the timely replacement of the failed organ<sup>[3]</sup>.

### Need for the study

Organ transplantation is one of the most spectacular endeavors till date. Medical advances have contributed tremendously to its success ratio and have led to a significant increase in the number of transplants being performed. But there is a shortage for organs and low response to cadaver organ donation. The shortage of organs has been due to the reluctance of many family members to donate due to the fear of surgery causing loss to their health, smaller nuclear families with unmatched donors and a deceased donor programme that is still to evolve fully<sup>[4]</sup>.

According to a study conducted in 2016 by Savita Thakur, in India every year nearly 5, 00,000 lives are lost due to unavailability of organs. Despite a population of 1.2 billion, people of India stands at a mere 0.08% of organ donors per million populations.

About 1, 50,000 people in India are waiting for a kidney transplant, however only 3000 of them receive of them are able to receive a transplant. Only 1 out of 30 people in the waiting list die without getting an organ<sup>[5]</sup>.

India, however slips to the 40<sup>th</sup> rank in the study of 69 countries in term of number of transplants per million population, with only three in a million getting a kidney in case of renal failure, as per a study conducted in 2016 by Amresh Tiwari<sup>[6]</sup>.

In a study conducted in 2014 by Indo-Asian News Services, India 2,00,000 people need a new kidney every year and 1,00,000 need a new liver, but only 2-3 percent of the demand for new organs are met<sup>[7]</sup>.

### Statement of the problem

“A descriptive study to assess the knowledge regarding organ donation among people seeking health care in selected tertiary care centers of Indore.”

**Objectives of the study**

1. To assess the level of knowledge regarding organ donation among people seeking health care in selected tertiary care centers of Indore.
2. To find the association of knowledge scores with selected socio demographic variables of people seeking health care.

**Hypothesis**

At 0.05 level of significance

- H<sub>1</sub>:- There is a significant association of knowledge scores

with people seeking health care on organ donation with selected socio demographic variables.

**Methodology**

A quantitative descriptive survey research approach was used in the study, 10 people seeking health care in Bombay Hospital, Indore, were selected by using probability sampling technique who were 20 years of age & above & willing to participate in the study. Data were collected using socio-demographic & structured knowledge questionnaire & analysed through chi-square test.

**Results**

**Table 1:** Distribution of samples according to socio demographic variables. (n = 10)

S. No	Socio demographic variables	Freq.	Percentage
1	Age (in years)		
	21-30	0	0%
	31-40	4	40%
	41-50	4	40%
	>50	2	20%
2	Gender		
	Male	7	70%
	Female	3	30%
3	Religion		
	Hindu	10	100%
	Christian	0	0
	Muslim	0	0
	Other	0	0
3	Educational qualification		
	Illiterate	0	0%
	Primary education	0	0%
	Higher Secondary Education	1	10%
	Graduate and others	9	90%
4	Previous Experience		
	Mass media	4	40%
	Awareness program	5	50%
	Previous experience in family	0	0%
	None of the above	1	10%

**Table 2:** Description of Knowledge Score (n = 10)

Knowledge score	Grade	Assessment of knowledge score				
		Freq.	Percentage	Mean	Median	S. D
1-5	Poor	1	10%	7.6	8	1.50
6-10	Average	9	90%			
11-15	Good	0	0			
16-20	Excellent	0	0			

**Table 3:** Association of knowledge scores with selected socio demographic variables.

Socio demographic variables		<median	>median	X <sup>2</sup> value	Df	P value	Level of significance
AGE (in yrs.)	31-40	2	2	0.800	2	0.670	Not significant
	41-50	4	0				
	Above 50	1	1				
Gender	Male	4	3	1.600	1	0.206	Not significant
	Female	3	0				
Educational qualification	Higher Secondary Education	0	1	6.400	1	0.011*	Significant
	Graduation and other	7	2				

Previous experience in family	Mass Media	3	1	2.600	2	0.273	Not significant
	Awareness programme	3	2				
	None	1	0				

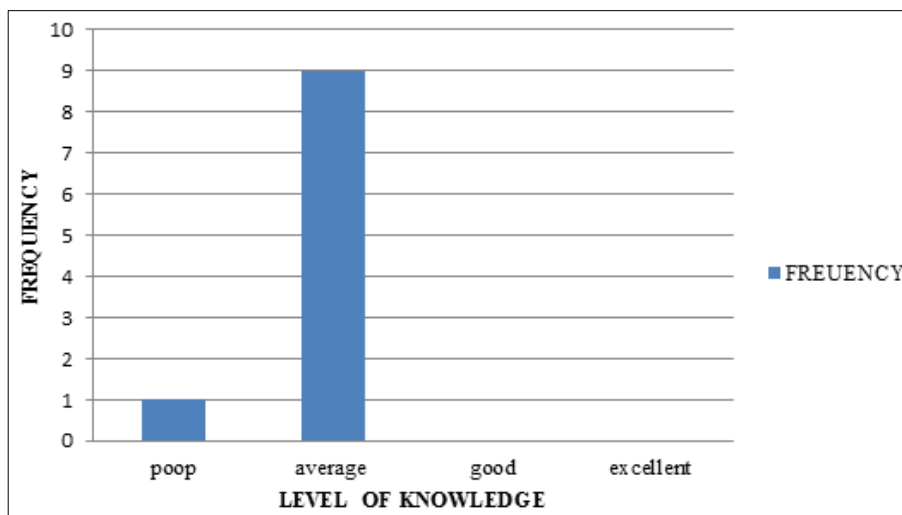


Fig 1: Frequency distribution of level of knowledge

Bar diagram showing frequency distribution of level of Knowledge of people seeking health care regarding organ donation.

**Conclusion**

This study revealed that people seeking health have average knowledge regarding Organ donation & there is need to improve knowledge in that diversity.

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