

## Awareness and Perspectives on Organ Donation Among College Students: A Descriptive Analysis

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### Abstract

*This research was carried out to evaluate the understanding and perspectives on organ donation among college students at a designated college in Kottayam. The aims of the research included evaluating the students' knowledge about organ donation, examining their attitudes toward organ donation, creating an informational pamphlet on organ donation, exploring the relationship between knowledge levels and certain demographic variables, and investigating the connection between attitudes and demographic factors. A convenience sampling approach was utilized to recruit 225 participants from the pool of college students in Kottayam. Data was gathered using a specifically developed structured questionnaire to measure knowledge and a 5-point Likert scale to evaluate attitudes toward organ donation. The result showed that majority of the subjects, 135(60%), had average knowledge, 79 (35.1%) had good knowledge, and only 11 (4.9%) had poor knowledge toward organ donation. The majority of subjects, 83 (36.9%), had unfavorable attitude toward organ donation, 69 (30.7%) had neutral attitude, and 73 (32.4%) had favorable attitude toward organ donation. The research outcomes indicated a notable correlation between both knowledge and attitude regarding organ donation and various demographic factors. From this study, it is indicated that majority of the subjects had average knowledge and unfavorable attitude toward organ donation.*

**Keywords:** Knowledge, attitude, organ donation, college students, structured questionnaire, demographic factors

### INTRODUCTION

Existence is an ongoing voyage that commences upon birth and culminates with death. Medical progress and technological advancements have increasingly been able to preserve lives and perform wonders in society. Organ donation is found to be the only possible treatment in most chronic illnesses. It saves thousands of people from death and also improves quality of life [1].

The theme of the 2022 World Organ Donation Day campaign, "pledge to donate organs and rescue lives," seeks to encourage posthumous organ donation, potentially leading to the preservation of countless lives. The complexities surrounding organ donation encompass ethical, legal, medical, organizational, and societal dimensions. Globally, attitudes towards organ donation vary significantly, often shaped by factors, including education, religious beliefs, knowledge, and family influences [2].

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Received Date: March 21, 2024

Accepted Date: May 10, 2024

Published Date: May 13, 2024

**Citation:** Anu Joseph, Praveena Prakash M., Ann Maria Sebastian, Asna Hashim V., Aylin Susan Babu, Chris Maria Sony, Christeena Mathews, Georgekutty Gigo, Jaisy James. Awareness and Perspectives on Organ Donation Among College Students: A Descriptive Analysis. International Journal of Emergency and Trauma Nursing and Practices. 2024; 2(1): 22–26p.

College students are among the change makers in the society. The study is mainly targeted on college students as it is their duty to act as role models for others in the society and for the coming generation. Knowledge about organ donation helps to dispel myths and misconceptions which prevents people from registering and promotes understanding and thereby increases donor registrations. These changes can be made only through educational programs in the mind of youth as they act as a bridge between present generation and future generation [3–7].

## METHODOLOGY

A quantitative methodology was adopted to investigate the understanding and perspectives regarding organ donation among students from a chosen college in Kottayam. The study utilized a descriptive research design and was conducted at CMS College, Kottayam. A total of 225 college students were chosen through convenience sampling. The participants included in the study were students aged 17 to 26 years who expressed willingness to participate. Students not between the age group of 17 to 26 years and those who are not willing to participate were excluded. Three tools were used for the study. Tool 1 consisted of a questionnaire to assess the socio demographic details of the subjects. Tool 2 comprised 24 items designed to evaluate participants' understanding of organ donation. Tool 3 utilized a 5-point Likert scale consisting of 9 statements to gauge participants' attitudes toward organ donation. To ensure content validity, the tools were reviewed by experts in the nursing field. The analysis of data encompassed both descriptive and inferential statistical methods.

## RESULTS

Among the students, 197 (87.6%) belong to the age group of 17 to 23 years, 167 (74.2%) are females, 127 (56.4%) are Christians, and 192 (85.3%) belong to nuclear family. Place of residence shows that 136 (60.4%) students belong to rural area. A total of 124 (55.1%) students got health information from mass media, and 218 (95.9%) were not registered organ donors (Table 1).

Among the students, majority, 135 (60%), had only average knowledge, 79 (35.1%) had good knowledge, and only 11 (4.9%) had poor knowledge towards organ donation (Table 2).

**Table 1.** Frequency and percentage distribution of subjects according to demographic variables ( $n = 225$ ).

Variable		Frequency (%)
Age (years)	17–23	197 (87.6)
	24–26	28 (12.4)
Gender	Male	58 (25.8)
	Female	167 (74.2)
Religion	Hindu	76 (33.8)
	Christian	127 (56.4)
	Muslim	22 (9.8)
Type of family	Nuclear family	192 (85.3)
	Joint family	33 (14.7)
Place of residence	Urban	89 (39.6)
	Rural	136 (60.4)
Health information source	Mass media	124 (55.1)
	Awareness camp	35 (15.6)
	Health education	66 (29.3)
Registered organ donor	Registered	7 (3.1)
	Not registered	218 (95.9)

**Table 2.** Frequency and percentage distribution of college students based on level of knowledge towards organ donation ( $n = 225$ ).

Knowledge Level	Range of Score	Frequency (%)
Poor	1–8	11 (4.9)
Average	9–16	135 (60)
Good	17–24	79 (35.1)

**Table 3.** Frequency and percentage distribution of college students based on attitude towards organ donation ( $n = 30$ ).

Attitude	Range of Score	Frequency (%)
Favorable	$\geq 36$	73 (32.4)
Neutral	32–35	69 (30.7)
Unfavorable	$\leq 31$	83 (36.9)

Among the students, majority, 83 (36.9%), had unfavorable attitude, 69 (30.7%) had neutral attitude, and 73 (32.4%) had favorable attitude towards organ donation (Table 3).

### Association Between Knowledge Towards Organ Donation Among College Students and Selected Demographic Variables

There is a notable correlation observed between knowledge and certain demographic factors like gender and the source of health information. However, no significant correlation was found between knowledge and other demographic variables such as age, religion, family structure, place of residence, and registered organ donor status [8, 9].

### Association Between Attitude Towards Organ Donation Among College Students and Selected Demographic Variables

A significant relationship exists between attitudes and certain demographic factors like the source of health information. Conversely, no significant relationship is evident between attitudes and other demographic factors including age, gender, religion, family type, living area, and whether one is a registered organ donor [10–12].

## DISCUSSION

The current research aimed to evaluate the understanding and perspectives regarding organ donation. The assessment revealed that majority of students, 135 (60%) had only average knowledge, 79 (35.1%) had good knowledge, and only 11 (4.9%) had poor knowledge towards organ donation. In case of attitude towards organ donation, majority of the students, 86 (36.9%), had unfavorable attitude, 69 (30.7%) had neutral attitude, and 73 (32.4%) had favorable attitude towards organ donation. The present study was supported by a descriptive study on assessment of knowledge and attitude regarding organ donation conducted among 250 college students at Kanyakumari. Results show that the majority of study participants have moderate knowledge (79.6%) and moderately favorable attitude (72.4%) [4].

The findings of this study indicate a significant link between knowledge and selected demographic factors, including gender and sources of health information. Furthermore, a notable correlation was identified between attitudes and the origin of health-related information. These results align with a separate study evaluating the awareness of organ donation among undergraduate students at various colleges in Abu Road, Rajasthan, which found a significant correlation between knowledge and demographic factors such as educational background, parental occupation, and prior knowledge of organ donation [5].

The study was conducted on a group of 225 students of same college, which limits the generalization. Assessment of knowledge was limited to current response to a multiple-choice questionnaire. Attitude

was assessed only using a 5-point Likert scale with 9 statements. The study was restricted to participants who consented to take part. Based on the results, it is recommended that future research be conducted across multiple colleges with a larger sample size [13–15].

## CONCLUSION

The aim of the study was to assess the understanding and viewpoints of college students concerning organ donation. The study concluded that majority of the subjects, 135 (60%), had average knowledge, 79 (35.1%) had good knowledge, and 11 (4.9%) had poor knowledge. Among 225 subjects, 73 (32.4%) had favorable attitude towards organ donation, 69 (30.7%) had neutral attitude, and 83 (36.9%) had unfavorable attitude towards organ donation. The research also found a noteworthy correlation between knowledge levels and certain demographic factors like gender and the source of health information. However, there was no significant correlation observed between knowledge levels and other demographic variables such as age, religion, family type, place of residence, and organ donor registration status. The study revealed that there is significant association between attitude and selected demographic variable such as health information source and there is no significant association between attitude and selected demographic variable such as age, gender, religion, type of family, place of residence and registered organ donor. A pamphlet on organ donation was prepared including all the necessary information and registration helpline contact numbers and distributed to all the subjects.

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