KNOWLDEGE AND ATTITUDE REGARDING ORGAN DONATION AMONG NURSING COLLEGE STUDENTS AND ARTS AND SCIENCE COLLEGE STUDENTS

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ABSTRACT

A comparative study to assess the knowledge and attitude regarding organ donation was conducted among nursing college and arts and science college students at Kochi with the following objectives 1) To assess the knowledge regarding organ donation among students of selected nursing colleges 2) To assess the knowledge regarding organ donation among selected arts and science colleges 3) To assess the attitude regarding organ donation among students of selected nursing college students 4) To assess the attitude regarding organ donation among selected arts and science college students 5) To compare the knowledge regarding organ donation among selected nursing college students and arts and science college students. 100 students (50 nursing, 50 arts and science) were surveyed using a knowledge questionnaire and an attitude scale. The results revealed that nursing college students had more knowledge (mean 11.78, SD 10.2) (Mean 10.2 SD 1.942) than arts and science college students whereas arts and science college students had more strongly positive attitude (mean 29.3 SD 4.5) than arts and science college students (mean 27.3 SD 4.5).

Key words: knowledge, attitude, organ donation, nursing students, arts and science college students.
INTRODUCTION
Organ donation and transplant activities are dependent on legislation, attitudes held by general public and health care professionals, cultural viewpoints against donation among the public. The existing discrepancy between organ demand and supply can influence the willingness to donate. Lack of an is often a devastating problem for the recipients, it is estimated that each day around 106 people are added to organ waiting list and every day 18 people die waiting for an organ. The current study was taken up with the aim of investigating the difference in knowledge and attitude among students if health care profession and non-health care professionals

OBJECTIVES
To assess the knowledge regarding organ donation among students of selected nursing colleges
To assess the knowledge regarding organ donation among selected arts and science colleges
To assess the attitude regarding organ donation among students of selected nursing college students
To assess the attitude regarding organ donation among selected arts and science college students
To compare the knowledge regarding organ donation among selected nursing college students and arts and science college students

METHODODLOGY
Research method-non experimental method
Research design-descriptive survey design
Sampling technique-simple random sampling technique using lottery method from given list of students

Tools used
Tool1- Knowledge questionnaire which consisted of two sections section A-socio demographic variables and section B knowledge regarding organ donation which was grouped under three headings- awareness regarding organ donation, legal aspects of organ donation, criteria for organ donation (20 items) with a total score of 20 and graded to very good knowledge (20 to 15) good knowledge (14 to 10), average knowledge (9 to 5), poor knowledge (0 to 4)
Tool2 – Attitude scale on organ donation (10 items) which was a 5 point rating scale (0 to 4) of total score 40 and graded to strongly positive attitude (40 to 31), positive attitude (30 to 21), negative attitude (20 to 11) strongly negative attitude <10

FINDINGS
The data was analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics

The diagram reveals that majority of the sample (73%) were in the age group of 18 to 20 years.
Diagram 2: Distribution of samples according to gender N=100
Diagram 2 reveals that majority of the samples were females (95%).

Diagram 3: Distribution of samples according to religion N=100
Diagram 3 reveals that majority (82%) were belonging to Hindu religion, 15% were Muslims, and 3% were Christians.

Diagram: Knowledge regarding organ donation among nursing and arts and science students
Diagram 4 depicts a comparison of level of knowledge among nursing students and arts and science students. It is evident from the graph that among 50 nursing students majority (72%) had good knowledge, and 14% had very good knowledge. Whereas among the arts and science students only 2% had very good knowledge, 60% had good knowledge and 38% had average knowledge. This is a highly foreseen result as both the groups differ in their streams and patterns of education; nursing students have more exposure and hence could have more knowledge.

Table 1
Mean, standard deviation and Z score of knowledge score of BSc nursing and arts and science students N=100

| Category          | Mean   | SD    | Z value |
|-------------------|--------|-------|---------|
| BSc NURSING       | 11.78  | 1.776 | 4.59*   |
| ARTS & SCIENCE    | 10.2   | 1.942 |         |

Table 1 reveals that when compared to arts and science students the BSc nursing students had a statistically significant increased knowledge score (z=4.59, P<0.05)

Diagram 5 Attitude towards organ donation in nursing and arts and science colleges
The present line graph depicts the comparison of attitude towards organ donation among art and science and nursing students. It was found that arts and science students had more strongly positive attitude towards organ donation (38%) compared to nursing students (34%) and also 2% of arts and science students had an indifferent attitude towards organ donation. The reason for decrease in the strong positive attitude among nursing students could be attributed to the knowledge level differences.

Table 2
Mean, standard deviation and Z score of attitude score of BSc Nursing and arts and science students N=100

| Category          | Mean   | SD    | Z value |
|-------------------|--------|-------|---------|
| BSc NURSING       | 28.52  | 4.52  | -0.866  |
| ARTS & SCIENCE    | 29.3   | 4.5   |         |

Table 2 reveals that when compared to BSc nursing students, arts & science students had a increased attitude score (z=4.59, P<0.05) The difference in attitude could be attributed to the difference in knowledge patterns too.

DISCUSSION
The present study has assessed the differences in knowledge and attitude towards organ donation among nursing students and arts and science students. It was observed that even though nursing students are higher in their knowledge regarding organ donation arts and science students have more positive attitude towards it.
This needs further investigation on its reasons and also emphasizes the need for imparting a more positive attitude towards organ donation among nursing students.

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