Attitude of General Population towards Organ Donation in a Rural Community of Ernakulam District

Anu Jacob Kachappillil¹, Anjaly Thankachan², Annie K George³, Betty Mathew⁴

¹Assistant Professor, Department of Medical Surgical Nursing, M.O.S.C. College of Nursing, Kolenchery, Ernakulam, Kerala, India.
²,³,⁴2nd Year Post Basic B.Sc. Nursing Students, MOSC College of Nursing, Kolenchery, Ernakulam, Kerala, India.

Background: Organ donation is defined as an act of giving one or more organs, without compensation, for transplantation to another person. For many of the end stage organ diseases, organ transplantation is the most preferred treatment. The need for organ transplantation is higher than the availability. For the transplantation program to be successful awareness regarding organ donation is needed and people must have a positive attitude towards donating organs. The present study was undertaken to assess the attitude of general population towards organ donation residing in a rural community of Ernakulam District.

Materials and methods: A descriptive analytical survey was conducted to assess the attitude of general population towards organ donation. A 5 point likert scale was used to assess the attitude towards organ donation. 100 subjects were selected using convenient sampling technique. The collected data was analysed by using descriptive and inferential statistics.

Results: The results of the study revealed that among 100 subjects, 81% of general population were having positive attitude, 19% were having neutral attitude and none of the subjects were having negative attitude towards organ donation. Even though majority of subjects were having positive attitude towards organ donation only 34% subjects were willing for organ donation. There was a significant association between the attitude of general population towards organ donation with demographic variables like religion and history of organ transplantation among family members/relatives/friends at P<0.05 level of significance.

Conclusion: The study revealed that majority of the participants were having positive attitude towards organ donation.

Keywords: Attitude, General Population, Organ Donation

Introduction
“Give yourself and those in need an elixir of life by pledging your organs” according to Mohith Agadi. Donating an organ is highly valued, as it is gifting and saving the life of someone, as one organ donor can save up to eight lives. Organ donation is defined as an act of giving one or
more organs, without compensation, for transplantation to another person. Common transplantations include kidneys, heart, liver, pancreas, intestines, lungs, bones, bone marrow, skin, and corneas. Some organs and tissues can be donated by living donors, such as a kidney or part of the liver, part of the pancreas, part of the lungs, or part of the intestines. Even though possible while living, most donations occur only after the donor’s death.

Even though organ transplantation has been in practice in India since many years, there was always a discrepancy between the need and availability of organs. More than 5 lakh people die yearly in India due to lack of availability of organs for transplantation. Organ transplantation is the only hope of life for many people suffering from end stage organ diseases, and for majority of them it remains as an unfulfilled dream.

Lack of awareness and negative attitude towards organ donation could be the possible reasons for the gap between the need and availability of organs. Religious and superstitious beliefs, cultural factors, misinformation’s related to organ donation, ignorance of general population, and lack of family consensus have been identified as some of the barriers for the successful implementation of organ donation programs in India. For the success of transplantation program, the public should be aware of its significance and they need to develop a positive attitude towards organ donation.

This study attempted to find out the attitude of general population aged 18 years and above towards organ donation in a selected rural community of Ernakulam district.

Purpose of the Study
This study was conducted to assess the attitude of general population towards organ donation.

Statement of the Problem
A descriptive study to assess the attitude of general population towards organ donation in a selected rural community of Ernakulam district.

Objectives
- To assess the attitude of general population towards organ donation
- To find out the association between the level of attitude of general population towards organ donation with selected demographic variables

Hypothesis (Level of Significance P<0.05)
H1: There is a significant association between the level of attitude of general population towards organ donation with selected demographic variables.

Materials and Methods
Setting of the Study: The study was conducted in a rural community of Ernakulam district.
Section B: Attitude of general population towards organ donation.

Table 2, shows the attitude of general population towards organ donation, which was assessed by using a 5 point Likert scale. The maximum score of the attitude scale was 60 and minimum score was 0. The mean attitude score was 48.09 with standard deviation 5.40. Even though majority of subjects were having positive attitude towards organ donation, only 34% subjects were willing to donate their organs. These findings show that there exist certain factors rather than attitude which act as barriers for organ donation program in our country.

| S. No. | Level of Attitude | Frequency (f) | Percentage (%) |
|--------|-------------------|---------------|----------------|
| 1.     | Positive attitude (>45) | 81            | 81             |
| 2.     | Neutral attitude (16-45) | 19            | 19             |
| 3.     | Negative attitude (≤15) | 0             | 0              |

Section C: Association between level of attitude of general population towards organ donation and selected demographic variables.

Table 3, shows that there was a significant association between the attitude of general population towards organ donation with demographic variables like religion (p = 0.005) and history of organ transplantation among family members/relatives (p = 0.03) at P<0.05 level of significance.
Discussion

This study was conducted to assess the attitude of general population towards organ donation. The study findings showed that, 81% of general population were having positive attitude, 19% were having neutral attitude and none of the subjects were having negative attitude towards organ donation. 34% participants were willing for organ donation. There was a significant association between the attitude of general population towards organ donation with demographic variables like religion (p=0.005) and history of organ transplantation among family members/relatives/friends (p=0.03) at P<0.05 level of significance. A similar study also showed a significant association between the attitude of participants towards organ donation with religion at P<0.05 level of significance.

Our study established a significant association between the attitude of general population towards organ donation with demographic variables like religion and history of organ transplantation among family members/relatives/friends at P<0.05 level of significance. A similar study also showed a significant association between the attitude of participants towards organ donation with religion at P<0.05 level of significance.

The finding of our study indirectly shows that there is certain other factors other than attitude which act as the barriers for organ donation program in our country. Opposition from family, fear of death, complications after living organ donation, fear of misuse of organs, religious beliefs etc. could be few among them. Effective measures should be taken by the government and voluntary organizations to overcome these barriers by organizing educational programs which provide relevant information to general public with the involvement of media, religious scholars and medical professionals which in turn will helps to overcome the shortage of organs for transplantation in India.

Conclusion

The result of the study showed that majority of the subjects (81%) had positive attitude towards organ donation and there was a significant association between the attitude of general population towards organ donation with demographic variables like religion and history of organ transplantation among family members/relatives/friends at P<0.05 level of significance. Even though majority of subjects were having positive attitude towards organ donation, only 34% subjects were willing to donate their organs.

Acknowledgement

Here we extend our sincere thanks to all people who participated in the study.

Conflict of Interest: None
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