



A Study On Developing Measures For Promoting Deceased Organ Donation In Rajasthan

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Introduction

- Organ donation is the process of donating healthy tissues or organs from a live, or recently dead, person to another person who is suffering from end-stage organ failure.
- The former is called the donor and the latter is the recipient.
- Multi-organ donation can happen when a patient is declared brain dead.
- Brain death is when all the functions of the brain stem have permanently and irrevocably ceased to exist, and there is no electrical activity in the brain.
- Harvesting organs from brain dead person for transplantation is known as cadaver transplantation(Deceased organ transplantation) and THOA Act 1994 declared brain death legal, thus making organ donation possible after declaration of brain death.

- + Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Kerala, Delhi Gujarat, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Punjab, and Haryana, have active deceased organ donation programs in the country
- + In Rajasthan, the deceased organ donation program started in the year 2015
- + Since then, 42 deceased organ donations have occurred saving the lives of 150 people
- + The current study aims to develop measures to improve deceased organ donation in Rajasthan

Research question

- + What are the barriers to organ donation and transplantation in Rajasthan?

Research Objectives

- + To identify the barriers to organ donation in Rajasthan
- + To examine and analyze the various dimensions of organ donation
- + To prepare a road map to promote the organ donation awareness in Rajasthan

Literature review

There is low knowledge about organ donation but the attitudes of people regarding the same is positive in various areas of the country.

If there is high awareness regarding organ donation in some region, it is attributed to high educational status of the population.

People need more knowledge before signing up as an organ donor. Practice of pledging organs after death is low, this is due to the fact that awareness regarding the concept of brain death is low.

Whereas in medical setting there is high awareness towards.

Low awareness in general population is the reason for lower organ donation rates.

In India, the potential for success of deceased organ donation program is very high, provided if all the important stakeholders, government, organizations and public work together.

Methodology

- + Study Design: Descriptive cross sectional
- + Study duration: 3 months
- + Study area: Jaipur
- + Study participants: 18+ aged permanent residents of Jaipur
- + Study tool: structured online questionnaire
- + Sampling : Non-probability convenience sampling
- + Response received: 108
- + Data analysis: Microsoft Excel

Results

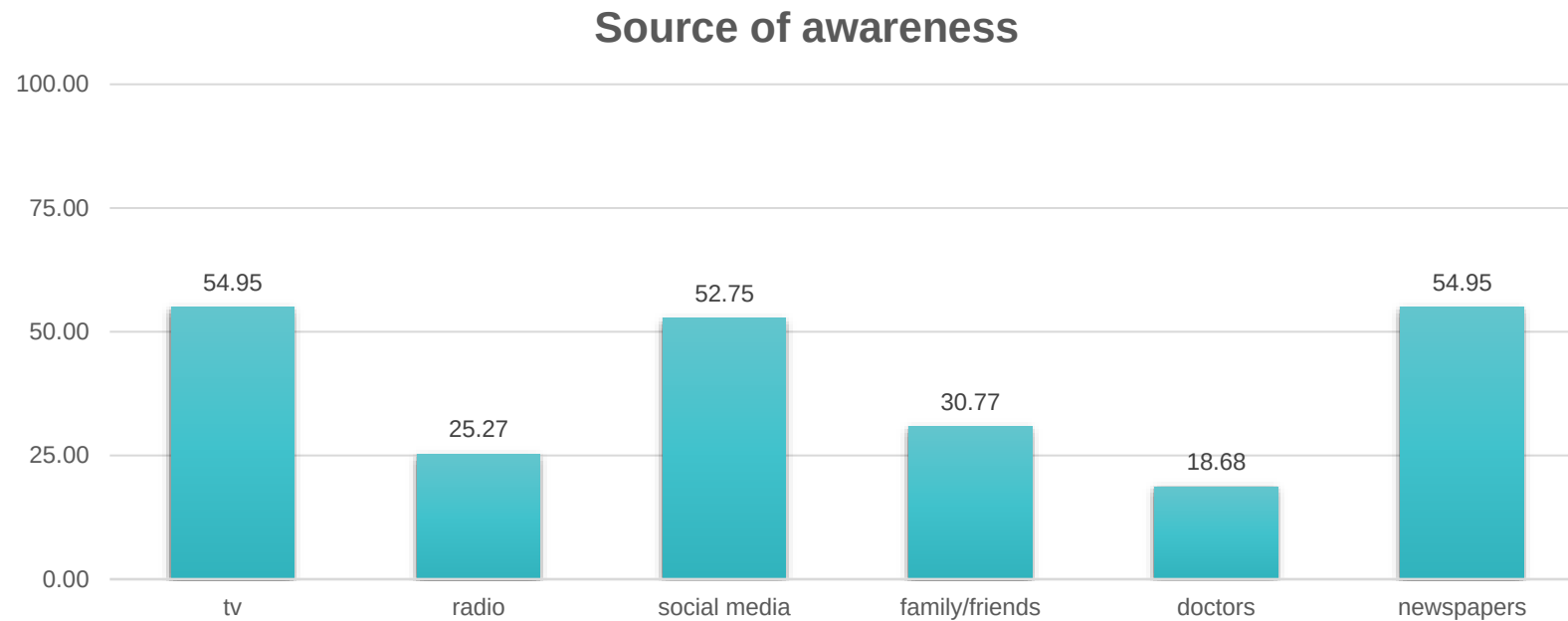
Characteristics	Percentage
Gender	
Male	39.22
Female	60.78
Age (in completed years)	
18-30	57.84
31-60	42.16
60 and above	0
Highest level of education	
Attended school, did not finish	1.96
Finished school	9.80
Finished college, graduate	61.76
Post-graduate or higher	26.47

Marital status	
Single	70.5
Married	28.43
Prefer not to say	0.98
Religion	
Hindu	86.27
Others	8.82
Prefer not to say	4.90
Occupation	
Employed	48
Homemaker	20.59
Student	24.51
Un-employed	6.68
Retired	0
Have you ever heard of the term organ donation and transplantation?	
Yes	89.22
No	10.78

Awareness about brain death and organ donation as a barrier (n=91)

Characteristic	(n)	(%)
Knowledge about when can organ be donated		
During life	6	6.59
After death	21	23.08
Both	57	62.64
Don't know	7	7.69
Knowledge about brain death		
Yes	58	63.74
No	33	36.26
Are you aware that people who are brain dead are truly dead? (n=58)		
Yes	22	37.93
No	23	39.66
Maybe	13	22.41
Awareness about law that recognizes brain death legal (n=58)		
Yes	26	44.0
No	11	18.0
Maybe	21	36.0

Sources of Awareness of Organ Donation



Willingness to donate

	(n)	(percentage)
Willing to donate organs of family member as a next of kin		
Yes	53	58.24
No	16	17.58
Cannot say	22	24.18
Willing to be an organ donor		
Definitely want to donate irrespective of circumstances	20	21.98
Need more information before becoming a donor	44	48.35
Will think about it	15	16.48
Would never consider it	12	13.19
Reasons for not wanting to be a donor (n=12)		
Don't have enough knowledge about it	5	41.67
Don't want to think about death	1	8.33
Organ donation is against my religion	1	8.33
Worried about upsetting family	2	16.67
Worried about organ misuse	3	25.0

Age wise attitudes towards organ donations

Should organ donation be promoted	Yes	Maybe	No
Age group			
18-30	51.79%	35.71%	12.50%
31-60	31.43%	42.86%	25.71%

Awareness regarding organ donor card

	(n)	(%)
Know about donor card		
Yes	25	27.47
No	66	75.53
Willingness to carry donor card(n=25)	Willing	
Willing	25	100

Key policy measures taken by southern states of India:

- Setting up of regional and state transplant organizations (ROTO/SOTTO)
- Dividing the state into regions for better coordination of transplant related activities.
- The partnership of the government with the NGOs to increase awareness regarding organ donation
- Participation from hospitals in setting up committees for identifying brain death.
- More and more transplant and non-transplant organ retrieval centres are added in the state.

- Education and training of medical professions regarding declaration of brain death and transplantation coordination
- Passing of separate government orders(G.O) apart from those mentioned in the THOA, to promote organ donation. These include guidelines/protocols to be followed by medical officers and police personnel after declaration of brain death
- Setting up of national toll free organ donation and transplantation helpline
- Training of transplant coordinators and grief counsellors, to assists the families of victims of brain dead people.
- Adoption of “Sri Ramachandra protocol for organ donation,” according to which the grief stricken families are first approached for eye donation, if they accept, they are further counselled for donation of other organs. If they deny the request for eye donation, no further probing is done for organ donation.

Some of the key gaps that can be identified from our study include:

- Despite the fact that 88 percent of the participants having heard about organ donation, they lack comprehensive knowledge on the subject.
- Only 62% participants knew that organs can be donated both during and after life.
- People are not aware regarding the concept of brain death.
- Only 44% of the participants know that there is law in India, that makes brain death legal
- Awareness regarding donor card is low, only 25% knew about it.

Suggested Road map for Rajasthan



As we can see from our study that there is some partial awareness regarding organ donation in Jaipur Rajasthan. After reviewing policy of southern states and identifying gaps, following things can be done ,to increase the organ donation rates in Rajasthan:

- Increased Participation from government in promoting organ donation: this can be achieved by collaborating with Local NGOs that work for the similar cause
- Training of medical personnel in transplant coordination
- Sensitization of staff of hospitals towards organ donation awareness
- Standard SOPs from government, for hospitals and police personnel, after identification of brain death
- Community outreach programs for raising awareness towards organ donation, as the awareness increases, the donation rates will definitely increase
- Awareness drives regarding key technicalities of organ donation, like brain death, donor card, etc is necessary.

- + Limitations of the study: The small sample size of the study is one of the limitation of our study, the results cannot be generalized to larger population but some key points can be taken to move ahead.

Recommendations

To increase the current organ donation rates in Rajasthan following things can be done:

1. Identify all the hospitals in the state that can start deceased organ donation program
2. Media collaboration to raise awareness about the importance of organ donation. Today is the era of social media, using this tool we can increase our reach to so many people which will in turn help saving lives of many.
3. Also from our study we saw that media was main source of information regarding organ donation. We should use this medium to promote awareness.

Conclusion

- + In conclusion, the organ donation rates in the state can be increased with the support from all the stakeholders.
- + People are aware about organ donation but they do not have the complete knowledge. If we focus on increasing the awareness regarding the topic, the organ donation rates will definitely increase.
- + More detailed studies are required to study various other factors, but the key points of this study can be used.

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Thank you

