

Knowledge, Attitude & Practice Of Healthcare Professional Students Of Northern Maharashtra Regarding Organ Donation & Transplantation, Concern Of The Hour

Digvi Pandit, Dr. Prafulla Dakhane

Phase IV MBBS Student, Dr. Vasanttrao Pawar Medical College, Nashik
Professor & HOD, Dept. Of Anatomy, Dr. Vasanttrao Pawar Medical College, Nashik

Abstract:

Introduction: Organ Donation & Transplantation (OTD) is of paramount importance and holds crucial place in today's era. There is no alternative to Organ Donation & Transplantation in clinical scenarios like Dilated Cardiomyopathy, Chronic Kidney Disease, Fulminant Liver Cirrhosis, etc. Today's healthcare professional students will be tomorrow's responsible healthcare service providers. This study is undertaken to know the details of Knowledge, Attitude & Practice (KAP) amongst healthcare students of Northern Maharashtra.

Aim & Objectives: Aim of the present study was to know insights of Knowledge, Attitude & Practice of Healthcare professional students of Northern Maharashtra regarding Organ Donation & Transplantation

Material & Methods: Google Form was prepared and distributed amongst 1022 students of different healthcare institutions of Northern Maharashtra studying MBBS, BDS, BPTH, BOTH, BAMS, BHMS, B.Sc Nursing, ANM, GNM and observations were noted. The Google Form itself included informed consent and it contained 3 sections- Knowledge, Attitude & Practice respectively. Observations were graded depending upon the score.

Results: Average score for questions seeking Knowledge, Attitude & Practice regarding Organ Donation & Transplantation was found to be 6,9.5 and 3 respectively whereas maximum score in each category was 10 out of 10. an

Conclusion: Considering less than expected scores in Knowledge category makes us imperative to strengthen awareness drive in Healthcare students about Organ Donation & Transplantation. Good scores in Attitude category shows that Healthcare students are having favourable attitude for Organ Donation & Transplantation whereas there is tremendous scope to work upon implementing practices for Organ Donation & Transplantation.

Keywords: Organ Donation and Transplantation, Knowledge, Attitude & Practice, OTD, KAP

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I. Introduction:

Organ Donation & Transplantation is the act of giving an organ such as Kidney, Heart or Liver from the Donor to the recipient to improve their quality of life. It is a life saving procedure. Often times people wonder that why should one donate and what are the benefits because the Indian population rarely ever does something without finding anything beneficial for them; mix it along with superstitions and religious beliefs and we have an off-balanced scale where the outrageous demand clearly outweighs the meagre supply. Globally also, there is a disequilibrium between organ donation & transplantation and need. Multiple factors come into play and create this disequilibrium¹. In India, as mentioned above, the conditions mirror that of the world². The shortage of organs has been recognized worldwide as a major limiting factor to organ transplantation. The World Health Organization and several international agencies have addressed organ shortage at different levels³. So to make a fair attempt at trying to balance these scales, we need to understand what do the healthcare students think because they are the future and that is why, this study was undertaken.

II. Methods & Materials:

Google Form was prepared and distributed amongst 1022 students of different healthcare institutions of Northern Maharashtra studying MBBS, BDS, BPTH, BOTH, BAMS, BHMS, B.Sc Nursing, ANM, GNM and observations were noted. The Google Form itself included informed consent and it contained 3 sections- Knowledge, Attitude & Practice respectively. A Google Form was containing 10,5 and 6 questions of

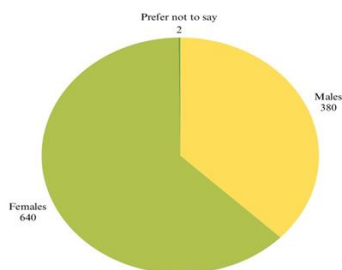
Knowledge, Attitude & Practice respectively. A scoring system was set with maximum attainable score being 30.

Observations Were Graded Depending Upon The Score.

Questions About Knowledge	
1.	Organ Which Is Most Frequently Transplanted?
2.	Are There Any Laws In India Governing Organ Donation?
3.	Who Can Donate Organs?
4.	Who Cannot Donate Organs
5.	Minimum Number Of Hours In Which An Organ(Eg- Heart) Should Be Retrieved For Donation?
6.	Are You Aware Of The Types Of Organ Donation? If Yes, Click On Suitable Option
7.	Is There Any Age Limit For Organ Donation?
8.	Can A Dead Body Be Left For Medical Education/Research After Organs Have Been Retrieved For Donation?
9.	If A Recipient Gets Called For Their Transplant, Will They Definitely Receive The Donated Organ?
10.	Does Govt. Of India Financially Support Organ Transplant?
Questions About Attitude	
1.	How Likely Are You To Discuss About 'Organ Donation' With Your Family And Friends.
2.	How Comfortable Are You With Your Loved Ones Donating An Organ
3.	How Comfortable Are You To Donate Organs That You Can Donate As A Living Donor (Blood, Liver, Kidney)
4.	Do You Feel The Need For Awareness About 'Organ Donation'
5.	What According To You Are The Reasons Behind A Less Number Of Organ Donations
Questions About Practice	
1.	Have You Ever Donated Blood?
2.	Have You Been A Part Of The Organ Donation Procedure Other Than Blood?
3.	Have You Encouraged Anyone About Organ Donation?
4.	Have You Registered Yourself For Organ Donation?
5.	Have You Ever Read About 'Organ Donation' Out Of Curiosity?
6.	Have You Ever Been A Part Of 'Organ Donation' Rally?

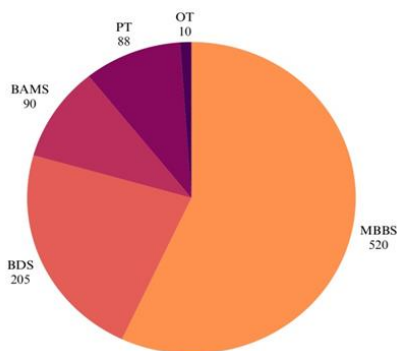
III. Results:

Out of the 1022 responses recorded, there were 640 Females, 380 Males and 2 who preferred not to reveal their gender.



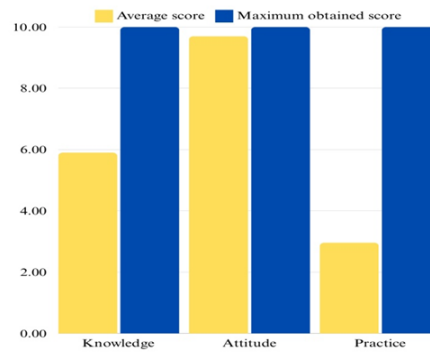
Gender distribution of Total Participants

The Course Distribution of the responses recorded showed a diverse mix with 520 responses from MBBS, 205 responses from BDS, 90 responses from BAMS, 88 responses from Physiotherapy and 10 responses from Occupational Therapy.

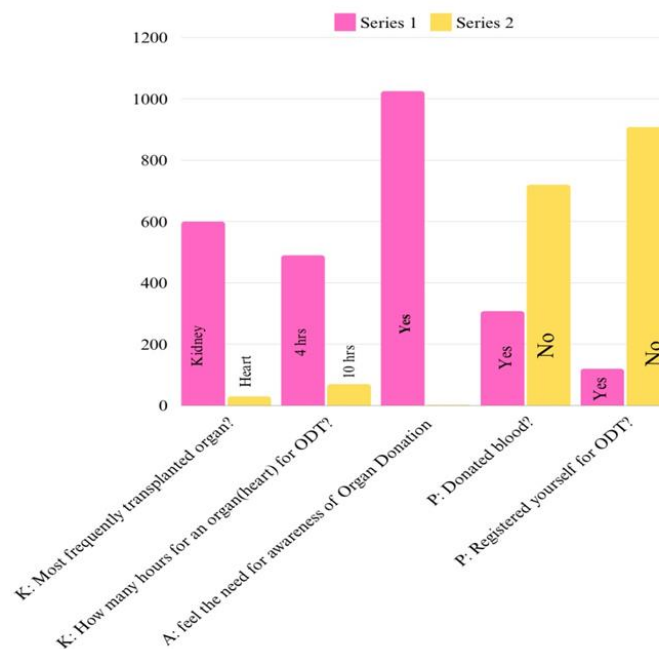


Course distribution of Total participants

The average score in the Knowledge section was 6 followed by 9.5 and 3 in Attitude and Practice respectively.



Below attached is the depiction of average of the participants performance on the most common questions from each section. The pink bar denotes the correct/ideal answer whereas the yellow bar indicates the participants answers.



IV. Discussion

The results of our study are really eye opening. A lot can be done in this field. Although the healthcare professional students are good in Knowledge and Attitude aspect of ODT, Practice of ODT is very less. The reasons for the same could be Religious stigma's, misbeliefs', Social Taboos, Fear about ODT, Misinformation etc but to overcome all these obstacles, healthcare service providers of tomorrow can play a very pivotal role.

We also compare findings of our study with other studies. As far as number of participants is considered, our study has the maximum number of study participants when compared to 506,371,362,298 of Dutch⁴,Greece⁵ , Hongkong⁶ and Indian Dental Students⁷ Studies respectively.

Our study showed a median percentage of ODT registration i.e- 11.8%. The maximum registration was seen in Dutch Study-59% followed by 40.6% in the Hongkong study and minimum registration was seen in Greece Study which was a shocking 4.89%.

Our study covers a wide spectrum of healthcare service students whereas other studies cover only medical and nursing students and Indian Dental Students Study only covers students of one spectrum.

Despite the scope ODT being very vast., only a handful of studies are found on the internet and in libraries. This limited information is further road blocked by less number of participants and being conducted 8-10 years ago. Our study being the most recent one with the maximum participants in our study and also being the most recent one has an upper hand.

We will definitely strive further to bring about awareness about ODT.

V. Conclusion:

After carefully understanding the results. we conclude that the participants have average score in Knowledge & Attitude but Practice is where there is a serious lag. We need to work upon it. Repeated sensitization by different methods using- radio, television, newspapers (mass media) can definitely bring a change.

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