



## Knowledge And Attitude Regarding Organ Donation Among The Nursing Students In A Selected Nursing College Of Kashmir

<sup>1</sup>Ishrat Amin, <sup>2</sup>Tahira Mushtaq, <sup>3</sup>Jamsheeda Zarooa, <sup>4</sup>Shabnum Ali

<sup>1,2,4</sup>Tutor, <sup>3</sup>Principal,

<sup>1</sup>Government College of Nursing, Pulwama, Kashmir

<sup>2,4</sup>Government B.Sc. Nursing College, Srinagar, Kashmir

<sup>3</sup>Ramzaan College of Nursing, Galander Pampore, Kashmir

**\*Corresponding Author:**

**Ishrat Amin**

Tutor, Government College of Nursing, Pulwama, Kashmir

Type of Publication: Original Research Paper

Conflicts of Interest: Nil

### Abstract

**Introduction:** Organ donation is the most preferred treatment for many of the end-stage organ diseases as it increases life expectancy. Besides long-term survival benefits, organ donation also improves quality of life in many circumstances.

**Methods:** A descriptive research design was used. 70 B.Sc. nursing 2<sup>nd</sup> year students were included in the study. A structured knowledge questionnaire was used to assess knowledge regarding organ donation.

**Results:** The findings of the study revealed that 29 % of nursing students had poor knowledge about organ donation, 66 % of nursing students had average knowledge about organ donation while 6% of nursing students had good knowledge regarding organ donation, 40 % of nursing students had positive attitude regarding organ donation and 60% of nursing students had negative attitude regarding organ donation. The study findings also revealed that Source of information regarding organ donation for 72.9 % of nursing students was formal education, for 12.9 % was books/journals and for 14.2 % was mass media.

**Conclusion:** Majority of the nursing students had average knowledge regarding organ donation. Majority of nursing students had negative attitude towards organ donation. Formal education was found to be major source of information for nursing students regarding organ donation.

**Keywords:** Knowledge, attitude, organ donation, nursing students

### Introduction

Organ donation is the removal of tissue from human body (living/dead) for the purpose of transplantation into another person as a treatment<sup>[1]</sup>. Vital organs such as the heart, pancreas, liver, kidneys, and lungs can be transplanted from the donor to a person whose organs are failing, known as the receiver. Worldwide, organ transplantation saves thousands of lives. Organ transplantation is considered one of the greatest advances of modern medical science that has given many patients a renewed lease of life<sup>[2]</sup>. Organ transplantation is enabling to enhance the quality of life of patients with end-stage organ failure<sup>[3]</sup>.

India's first organ transplant was conducted in the 1970s (it was a kidney transplant)<sup>[4]</sup>. Organ donation in India is regulated by the Transplantation of Human Organs and Tissues Act, 1994. The law allows both deceased and living donors to donate their organs. It also identifies brain death as a form of death<sup>[5]</sup>. The National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation (NOTTO) functions as the apex body for activities of relating to procurement, allotment and distribution of organs in the country<sup>[6]</sup>.

There are three kinds of organ donors: Live donors, cadaveric or brain death donors and natural death donors. Live donor refers to when a living person decides to donate his or her organ(s) to someone in need of a transplant. Living donors are usually family members or close friends of that person who require a transplant. Cadaveric or brain death donor refers to when organs from a brain-dead individual are transplanted into the body of a living recipient. The deceased individual in this scenario can only be a victim of brain death. The following organs can be donated by a brain death patient: kidney, liver, heart, lungs, pancreas, intestine, tissues, cornea, bones, skin, and veins. Natural death donor refers to a person who after his or her natural death can donate their eyes.

Srishta NB *et al.*<sup>[7]</sup> conducted a study to assess the knowledge and attitude regarding organ donation among nursing students of selected colleges at Moradabad. The findings of the study revealed that majority of the students 65 (65%) have moderate level of knowledge, 76(76%) have unfavourable attitude towards organ donation. There was no association found between knowledge and attitude and socio- demographic variables of the students regarding organ donation among BSc nursing final year students.

Lack of awareness and negative attitude toward organ donation could be possible reasons for the gap between the need and availability of organs. Lack of awareness about the concept of brain death, religious attitudes, superstition related to rebirth, fear of misuse of organs, health risks due to organ donation, and lack of consensus among family members have been identified as potential barriers for successful implementation of organ donation program in India<sup>[8]</sup>. Nurses have an important role to play in the process of promotion of organ donation. In the hospital care setting, they are usually the first person who comes in contact with the dying patients. For that matter, they should learn to recognize and identify the potential organ donors as early in course of treatment as possible. The nursing students are the potential practicing nurses. They can educate the public, motivate and encourage them regarding the process of organ donation. However, it is important that they should be well equipped with the knowledge regarding organ donation. With this

background, the present study was conducted to assess the knowledge and attitude of nursing students regarding organ donation.

**Statement of Problem:** A descriptive study to assess the knowledge and attitude regarding organ donation among B.Sc. Nursing 2<sup>nd</sup> year students in a selected Nursing College of Kashmir.

### Objectives

- To assess the knowledge regarding organ donation among B.Sc. Nursing 2<sup>nd</sup> year students in a selected Nursing College of Kashmir.
- To assess the attitude regarding organ donation among B.Sc. Nursing 2<sup>nd</sup> year students in a selected Nursing College of Kashmir.

### Methods

A descriptive research design was adopted in this study. Seventy B.sc Nursing 2<sup>nd</sup> year students from Ramzaan College of Nursing, Galandar, Pampore, Kashmir were chosen as study participants using total enumerative sampling technique. A formal informed consent was obtained from the students before collecting the data. The tool used for data collection was organised into three sections:

Section A : Participant information sheet- This section comprised questions related to demographic characteristics such as age, gender, religion, residence, family status, source of information.

Section B: A structured knowledge questionnaire was prepared by the researcher to evaluate the nursing student's knowledge regarding organ donation. This section comprised of 15 multiple-choice questions regarding organ donation.

Section C: This section comprised of questions to assess the attitude of nursing students towards organ donation.

Scoring: Each correct answer was given score of 1 and unanswered or wrong answer was given a score of 0. The highest score was 15 and the lowest score was 0. A score of 0-5 was interpreted as poor knowledge, while 6-10 was considered as average and a score of 11-15 was considered as good knowledge.

## Results

Table 1: Distribution of nursing students based on demographic characteristics N =70

S.No.	Demographic variables	Frequency (%)
1.	<b>Age ( years)</b>	
	18 - 20	21 (30)
	21-23	44 (62.9)
	24-26	4 (5.7)
	> 26	1 (1.4)
2.	<b>Gender</b>	
	Male	21 (30)
	Female	49 (70)
	Other	0
3.	<b>Religion</b>	
	Hindu	0
	Muslim	100
	Christian	0
	Other	0
4.	<b>Residence</b>	
	Urban	15 (21.4)
	Rural	55 (78.6)
5.	<b>Family status</b>	
	Nuclear	58 (82.9)
	Joint	11 (15.7)
	Extended	1 (1.4)
6.	<b>Source of information</b>	
	Formal education	51 (72.9)
	Books / journals	9 (12.9)
	Mass media	10 (14.2)
	Seminar/ workshop	0

The data in Table 1 reveal that 30 % were in the age group of 18-20 years, 62.9 % were in the age group of 21-23 years, 5.7 % were in the age group of 24-26 years, 1.4 % were in the age group of greater than 26 years, 30 % were male and 70 % were female, 21.4 % were from urban area and 78.6 % were from rural area, 82.9%

belonged to nuclear family, 15.7 % to joint family, and 1.4 % to extended family, Source of information regarding organ donation for 72.9 % was formal education, for 12.9 % was books/journals, for 14.2 % was mass media.

**Table 2 : Distribution of nursing students based on their level of knowledge regarding organ donation**

Level of knowledge	Frequency (%)
Poor	20 (29)
average	46 (66)
Good	4 (6)

The data in Table 2 reveals that 29 % of nursing students had poor knowledge about organ donation, 66 % of nursing students had average knowledge about organ donation while 6% of nursing students had good knowledge regarding organ donation.

**Table 3 : Distribution of nursing students related to their attitude towards organ donation**

Attitude	Frequency (%)
Positive attitude	28 (40)
Negative attitude	42 (60)

The data in table 3 reveals that 40 % of nursing students had positive attitude regarding organ donation and 60% of nursing students had negative attitude regarding organ donation.

## Discussion

The findings of the present study reveal that 30 % of the nursing students were in the age group of 18-20 years, 62.9 % were in the age group of 21-23 years, 5.7 % were in the age group of 24-26 years, 1.4 % were in the age group of greater than 26 years, 30 % were male and 70 % were female, 21.4 % were from urban area and 78.6 % were from rural area, 82.9% belonged to nuclear family, 15.7 % to joint family, and 1.4 % to extended family. The findings of the present study revealed that source of information regarding organ donation for 72.9 % was formal education, for 12.9 % was books/journals, for 14.2 % was mass media. The findings of the present study are in line with a study conducted by Sukhpal Kaur et al<sup>[9]</sup> to assess the knowledge, attitude and perception regarding organ donation among nursing students. In their study, the findings reveal that 31% subjects had information about organ donation from television/radio, 24.5% had from curriculum, 20% had from newspaper/magazine. A total of 19.5% had heard from doctor and only 7.5% had information from seminars and workshops.

The findings of the present study revealed that 29 % of nursing students had poor knowledge about organ donation, 66 % of nursing students had average knowledge about organ donation while 6% of nursing students had good knowledge regarding organ donation. The findings of the present study are in line with a previous study conducted by Srishti NB et al<sup>[7]</sup> to assess the knowledge and attitude regarding organ donation among nursing students of selected college at Moradabad. In their study, the findings reveal that 32 % of nursing students had inadequate knowledge, 65% of nursing students had moderate knowledge and 3% of nursing students had adequate knowledge.

The findings of the present study reveal that 40 % of nursing students had positive attitude regarding organ donation and 60% of nursing students had negative attitude regarding organ donation. The findings of the present study are in line with a study conducted by Srishta NB et al<sup>[7]</sup> to assess the knowledge and attitude regarding organ donation among nursing students of selected college at Moradabad. In their study, the findings reveal that 24 % of nursing students had favourable attitude towards organ

donation and 76 % of nursing students had unfavourable attitude towards organ donation.

### Conclusion

Formal education was found to be major source of information for students regarding organ donation. Majority of the nursing students had average knowledge regarding organ donation. Majority of nursing students had negative attitude towards organ donation. The present study would help nurses and other health care professionals to determine knowledge and attitude towards organ donation.

### References

1. Saleem T, Ishaque S, Habib N, Hussain SS, Jawed A, Khan AA, et al. Knowledge, attitude and practices survey on organ donation among a selected adult population of Pakistan. *BMC Medical Ethics*. 2009;10(5). Available at: <http://www.biomedcentral.com/1472-6939/10/5>
2. Sucharitha ST, Siriki R, Dugyala RR, Mullai, Priyadarshini, Kaavya, Roshini. Organ Donation: Awareness, attitudes and beliefs among undergraduate medical students in South India. *Natl J Res Community Med*. 2013;2(2):83–88
3. Ponnayyan H, Visalakshi K. Knowledge and Attitude re-garding organ donation among Nursing Students. *International Journal of Science and Research* 2015;4(12):1478-1480.
4. Nallusamy S. Organ donation-Current Indian scenario. *Journal of the Practice of Cardiovascular Sciences*. 2018 Sep 1;4(3):177-.
5. "*Organ Transplantation in India | Organ Transplant Governing Laws*". Retrieved 29 April 2020
6. "*Directorate General Of Health Services*". *dghs.gov.in*. Archived from the original on 30 March 2020. Retrieved 29 April 2020.
7. Srishti NB, Kumar P, Sonam V, Rani P. A study to assess the knowledge and attitude regarding organ donation among nursing students of selected colleges at Moradabad. *IJAR*. 2018;4(7):41-3.
8. Dibaba FK, Goro KK, Wolide AD, Fufa FG, Garedow AW, Tufa BE, Bobasa EM. Knowledge, attitude and willingness to donate organ among medical students of Jimma University, Jimma Ethiopia: cross-sectional study. *BMC public health*. 2020 Dec;20:1-7.
9. Krishnan N, Rana D, Kathania D, Thakur G, Kaur G. Knowledge, attitude and perception regarding organ donation among the nursing students. *Journal of Postgraduate Medicine, Education and Research*. 2017 Mar 1;49(3):105-10.