

KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDES AND BELIEFS ABOUT ORGAN DONATION AMONG MEDICAL STUDENTS IN HOSPITAL SULTANAH BAHYIAH, ALOR SETAR, KEDAH

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(NMRR-13-1011-16904)



INTRODUCTION

- Organ transplantation is the most preferred treatment modality for patients with end-stage organ disease
- There is an inadequate supply of cadaver organs commensurate with need
- Healthcare professionals are the critical link in augmenting public awareness about organ donation
- Their attitudes and beliefs can influence the public opinion

OBJECTIVE

- The study aimed to assess the level of knowledge, attitudes and beliefs among medical students in Hospital Sultanah Bahiyah, Alor Setar, Kedah.

METHODOLOGY

- Data was collected through self administered questionnaire
- It was done in Hospital Sultanah Bahiyah, Alor Setar, Kedah on medical students in years 3 to 5
- In a sample of 47 medical students, 35 valid questionnaire were completed (men 40.0% ; women 60.0%)
- Data were statistically analyzed using SPSS windows version 20.0

RESULTS

- Overall, respondents were aware about organ donation and agreed to become organ donor in the future
- Most of the respondents had positive attitude towards support for organ donation (80.0%) (Table 1)
- 91.4% believes that organ donation can saves lives (Table 1)
- The study also indicated that there was a statistically significant correlation between attitudes and beliefs. (Table 2)

Table 1 Percentage of demographic, level of knowledge attitudes and beliefs among medical students

Item	N	%
DEMOGRAPHIC		
Gender		
Male	14	40.0
Female	21	60.0
Race		
Malay	25	71.4
Indian	2	5.7
Chinese	4	11.4
Bumiputera Sabah	1	2.9
Bumiputera Sarawak	1	2.9
Punjabi	2	5.7
Years of study		
3	19	54.3
4	12	34.3
5	4	11.4
LEVEL OF KNOWLEDGE		
1. Organ can be donated after death	33	94.3
2. Cadaveric donors are donors who donate organs after death	29	82.9
3. Only those who are brain dead can donate organs and tissue	7	20.0
4. Diabetes is a disease that does not require organ	23	65.7
5. You can donate certain organs while alive	33	94.3
6. Organ donor can be buried in common	27	77.1
ATTITUDES		
1. I support organ donation	28	80.0
2. I am willing to donate organs to those who need	11	31.4
3. I ever thought of the organ donation	15	42.9
4. I will be an organ donor when the time is right	16	45.7
5. I'm not afraid to donate organ	10	28.6
6. have to inform the families of the intention to donate organ	21	60.0
7. I am ready to donate my organ to family members only	16	45.7
BELIEFS		
1. Organ donation will not cause defects in the body	22	62.8
2. Organ donation saves lives	32	91.4
3. I am not afraid of my body will suffer if i donate organ	16	45.7
4. Only healthy individuals can become an organ donor	20	57.1
5. Religious factors are not barriers to donate organ	16	45.7
6. I'm not afraid of my organ donations given to the immoral (the bad people)	18	51.4
7. I will accept the organ in religion and non-religion if necessary	12	34.2
8. I do not doubt, if donated organ, the organ would give to people of different religions	20	57.1
9. I'm sure my family and beneficiaries will allow the process of organ donation	10	28.5

Table 2 The correlation between the knowledge, attitude and beliefs towards organ donation

Score	Attitude Score	
	r	P Value
Knowledge	0.215	0.093
Beliefs	0.663	0.000*

Note: *significant (p<0.01)

CONCLUSION

Positive attitude towards organ donation could be enhanced among the students by including it in the medical curriculum so that it will also improve the perception of community towards the issue of organ donation in Malaysia

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