



PERCEPTIONS TOWARDS ORGAN DONATION AMONG MEDICAL STUDENTS IN HOSPITAL SULTANAH BAHYIAH, ALOR SETAR, KEDAH

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INTRODUCTION

The shortage of the organ donation in Malaysia for transplantation does not match the increasing demand; Health professionals play an important role in eliminating barriers and increasing organ donation. Bapat et al. (2010) emphasized that the attitudes and beliefs of those in the health field, especially medical students seen as capable to change and influence public opinion towards organ donation. The potential of the medical students in an effort to encourage organ donation should not be ignored. Chung et al. (2008) also pointed out that medical students play an important role in promoting organ donation and also has the potential to increase the rate of organ donation through the mutual relationship of trust with family members and patients. Therefore, this study aims to explore the perceptions of medical students in Hospital Sultanah Bahiyah, Alor Setar, Kedah towards organ donation.

METHODOLOGY

Study Design	Qualitative Approach
Study Methods	Using Focus Group Discussion (FGD) and purposive sampling were used to recruit the respondents
Study Population	Medical Students in Hospital Sultanah Bahiyah, Alor Setar, Kedah
Instruments	Semi-structured Questionnaire
Study Period	September 2013
Data Management	Using NVivo Software Version 8.0
Data Analysis	Data were analyzed according to the themes of the narrative that has been derived from the findings.
Study Ethics	Written permission from the Director of Hospital Sultanah Bahiyah, Alor Setar, Kedah, consent from the respondents and MREC approval.

RESULTS

Respondent Profile (N=7)

Variable	No.	Percentage (%)
Gender		
Male	2	28.6
Female	5	71.4
Race		
Malay	6	85.7
Indian	1	14.3
Age		
21 years	4	57.1
22 years	1	14.3
23 years	2	28.6
Years of Study		
Year 3	5	71.4
Year 4	2	28.6

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PERCEPTIONS TOWARDS ORGAN DONATION

Content analysis of the transcripts revealed FOUR main themes, each theme includes one to three sub-themes. The participants gave their perceptions related to knowledge towards organ donation, the shortage of organ donation, awareness and intention to donate.

MAIN THEMES	SUB-THEMES	STATEMENT
Knowledge towards organ donation	Definition of Organ Donation	'... is one body harvesting process. Eye, heart depends on what organs necessary ...' (R1 / M)
		'... the transfer of organs or tissues from living donor or a deceased ...' (R5 / F)
		'... needs organ from a donor whether he still alive or already dead ...' (R3 / F)
The shortage of organ donation	Types of organ can be donate	'... donation of corneas, heart donation and heart valves ... there is a liver donation, lung, kidney and bone marrow ...' (R1 / M)
		'... liver, heart, kidney, bone marrow, lung, bone, heart valves, skin and eye ...' (R5 / F)
Awareness	Lack of exposure on Organ Donation	'... the rural community they have no knowledge that there is a program like organ donation ... many people have the wrong perception ...' (R1 / M)
		'... main reason is lack of exposure la ... less exposure...we do not know the side effect ...' (R5 / F)
		'... barriers of the family did not give permission ...' (R3 / F)
Intention to donate	Family Barriers	'... family didn't allow ...' (R4 / F)
		'... there may be restrictions in terms of religion such as Hinduism or Islam religion ...' (R1 / F)
		'... have to make more campaign...more efforts to approach community to advise them appropriately...' (R1/M)
Intention to donate	Increase campaign	'... this campaign due to the attractive ... I think if you make on Twitter or Facebook ... people would be interested to read ...' (R6 / M)
		'... exposure to mass media using social media or mass media more impact ...' (R3 / F)
		'... kinds of Fadzilah Kamsah to talk about organ donation ... sure everyone will hear what he says ...' (R4 / F)
Intention to donate	Intention to donate in future	'... I intend to donate. In Shaa Allah in the future ... but I need a lot of courage ...' (R2 / F)
		'... I would sign up but if I signed up I want to donate after dead la ... because if Im alive I wont... scared ...' (R7 / F)

CONCLUSION

- Most respondents were highly knowledgeable in terms of the type of organ that can be donated and can clearly explain the definition or meaning of organ donation.
- There are respondents who stated that organ donation is not as popular as blood donation because blood donation does not involve any organ and tissue.
- A number of respondents suggested that enhanced campaigns, empowering the use of mass media and social media as well as the motivator to attract people to donate organs.
- To increase awareness among medical students, the medical curriculum should be improved to overcome the shortage of organ.
- Hence, medical students would be called the medical officer, then they need to be prepared with knowledge of organ donation information. So that, they can convince the public about the importance of organ donation because they are the closest, reliable and able to identify the potential organ donors, especially among patients.

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