

CHALLENGES IN DECEASED ORGAN DONATION IN INDIA – A NARRATIVE REVIEW

Mrs. Renu Susan Thomas

Professor, PVS College of Nursing, Kozhikode, Kerala, India.

DOI: <http://doi.org/10.47211/idcij.2020.v07iws03.004>

ABSTRACT:

Background: Organ donation has instilled light in to lives of thousands of patients with chronic illnesses, all over the world. The disparity between the huge demands for the organs and their poor supply is the main issue. In India, total organ donation shortage of the country can be met with if even 5 to 10% of the victims involved in fatal accidents serve as organ donors.

Methods: Review and analysis of scientific articles and media posts from 2015-2019 to identify factors enhancing and demoting deceased organ donation. Journals, New papers and magazines were utilized to get necessary data.

Results: The challenges include interplay of socio-cultural factors, beliefs and superstitions, lack of communication and organizational support, and negative views by the media. Lots of organ wastage happens due to poor time management, Lack of expertise, facilities and institutional support.

Conclusion: Targeted health-education, behaviour change communication, and legal interventions, improvement in facilities, in conjunction, are key to improving organ donor registrations. Systems, Laws and human resources to be better equipped for better outcomes.

Key Words: Brain death, Cadaveric donor, living donor, Organ donation, Organ Transplantation, transplant co-ordination.

ABOUT AUTHOR:



Mrs. Renu Susan Thomas is a professor and principal of PVS College of Nursing, Kozhikode, Kerala, India. She has been a resource person in various conferences, seminars etc. She has co-authored article and books.

INTRODUCTION

There is a huge difference between the number of patients who need transplants and the organs that are available in India. An approximate number of persons who suffer from renal failure are 1.8 lakh annually, but the number of renal transplants done is around 6000 yearly. About 2 Lakh patients loss their life due to liver failure or liver cancer annually, among which 10-15% can be saved with timely liver transplant. Hence roughly about 30000 liver transplants are needed in a year, but only a fifth of this is being performed. The average number of heart failure reported annually is 50,000 but only about 10-15 heart transplants are performed. In case of cornea, about 25000 transplants are done every year against a requirement of 1 lakh (Vasudevan S, 2018).

Although India falls in the second position with numbers of live donor transplants undertaken in the world after the USA, but stand nowhere in the list of deceased donor transplant. [6-9] Country needs 260,000 organs every year, i.e., 180,000 kidneys; 30,000 livers and 50,000 hearts, whereas only 6000 kidneys, 1200 livers and 15 hearts are transplanted annually (National Organ Transplant Program). India has a fairly well-developed corneal donation, and transplant program however donation after brain death has been relatively slow to take off. In the backdrop of annual requirement of 100,000 corneas around 40,000 were collected during the past few years yet less than 25% could be transplanted due to quality issues.

METHODOLOGY

Review and analysis of scientific articles and media posts from 2015-2020 to identify factors enhancing and demoting deceased organ donation. Journals, New papers and magazines were utilized to get necessary data. Opinions of experts were also obtained to validate the data.

DISCUSSION

There exists a great need to promote deceased organ donation in India, because organ donation from living persons cannot take care of the organ requirements of the country. Risk to the life of living donor and there is an implied expense for proper follow up of the donor. Even with the establishment of a comprehensive law, cadaveric organ donation remains very poor. There is also an element of commercial transaction associated with live organ donation, which is violation of Law. In such a situation of organ shortage, rich can exploit the poor by indulging in organ trading (Mehta et al 2017).

The shortage of organ for transplantation is virtually a universal problem but Asia lags behind much of the rest of the world. India lags behind other countries even in Asia. It is not that there aren't enough organs to transplant. Nearly every person who dies naturally, or in an accident, is a potential donor. Even then, innumerable patients cannot find a donor. Passing years have witnessed a three times increase of deceased donors: in 2013, there was only 313 donors across India, 2014 saw 411 donors and 2017 had 905 cadaver organ donors. But still, given the demand and size of the population, India remains a country with one of the lowest organ donation rates in the world.

Health care professionals are the most critical link in the organ procurement process, as they are the first individuals to establish a relationship with the potential donor's family and tend to have the opportunity to raise the option of organ donation; hence they constitute the group of professionals who need to be most knowledgeable in the area of organ donation. It has been suggested that a favourable attitude of health professionals toward organ donation can positively influence a potential donor family's decision to consent; however as many as 61% of the professionals involved in the donation process rate themselves as uncomfortable in approaching donor families. Thus improvement in knowledge and attitude toward organ donation may be an appropriate health strategy to increase the limited donor pool (Thomas PG et al, 2018).

RESULTS

Five reasons for lag of organ donation in India;

- Lack of family consent
- Superstitions and misconceptions
- Lack of education and awareness
- Lack of brain death declaration, and
- Lack of organ transplant and retrieval centres.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Nalluswamy et al (2018), recommends the following for promoting organ donation

There is a need of awareness among people on deceased organ donation, the concept of brain death, and the process of organ transplantation.

- More NGOs should take significant steps to create awareness
- There is a lack of coherence within the medical fraternity on rules and procedures of organ transplantation
- The absence of a centralized agency to keep and maintain a registry of donors and recipients and ensure maximum utilization of organs , as well as their fair and equitable allocation
- Strong necessity for developing a centralized organ sharing network among hospitals for better co-ordination, timely utilization and avoiding organ wastage.

REFERENCES

1. Vasudevan S. Ethics in Organ Transplantation- some facts and thoughts. I.M.A. Kerala Medical Journal. Vol-11, Issue 2, (2018)
2. Dhvani Mehta, Nivedita Saksena, Yashaswini Mittal. Organ Transplant Law: Assessing compatibility with the right to health. Vidhi center for Legal Policy (2017)
3. Philip G Thomas, CAswathy, George Joshy, Jacob Mathew. Elements of a successful hospital based Deceased Organ Donation Programme in India: Zero to Eighty Five in two Years. The National Medical Journal Of India, Vol-31, No.4 (2018)
4. Nalluswamy S, Shyamalapriya, Balaji, Ranjan, Yogendran. Organ donation- Current Indian Scenario. Journal of Practical Cardio vascular Science.2018;4:177-9
5. AneeshSrivasthava, Anil Mani; Deceased organ donation and transplantation in India- Promises and Challenges, (2018)Neurology India Vol-66 Issue-2, 316-322
6. <https://www.notto.gov.in/>
7. Sachdeva S. Organ donation in India: Scarcity in abundance. Indian J Public Health 2017;61:299-301
8. Organ donation in India—A social marketing perspective, Geetha Mohan, Asokan A. Aswathy (2019), <https://doi.org/10.1002/nvsm.1637>