

Knowledge and Attitude Regarding Organ Donation among Nursing Students

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Abstract: Organ transplantation is enabling to enhance the quality of life of patients with end-stage organ failure. "A study to assess the knowledge and attitude regarding organ donation among nursing students in selected nursing institutes of Mangalore." The aim of the study is to assess the knowledge and attitude of nursing students regarding organ donation in selected nursing Institutes of Mangalore. The objectives of the study were to: i.determine the knowledge regarding organ donation among nursing students, ii.find out the attitude towards organ donation, iii.find the relationship between knowledge and attitude regarding organ donation among nursing students, iv find an association between knowledge of nursing students regarding organ donation and demographic factors, v.find an association between attitude of nursing students regarding organ donation and demographic factors. The researcher used a quantitative approach and non experimental descriptive design. The major findings of the study were: majority of the nursing students i.e. 46% (n=100) belong to 21-22 years of age, 81% were females, 50% of students were studying third year and 50% studying fourth year B.Sc. Nursing, majority of the nursing students 68% were Christians. The level of knowledge of nursing students regarding organ donation showed that majority i.e 89% had average knowledge and majority 74% had favourable attitude towards organ donation. It was found that there is a positive relationship between level of knowledge and attitude score of nursing students on organ donation, but it is not significant ($r = 0.042$) at 0.05 level. Chi-Square test showed that there is no significant association between knowledge level of nursing students and the demographic variables like age, gender, year of study and religion and there is no significant association between attitude of nursing students and the demographic variables like age, gender, year of study and religion. The findings would help the nurse administrators, nurse educators and public health authorities to develop an insight into the importance of health education regarding organ donation.

Keywords: Knowledge, Attitude, Organ donation, Nursing Students

1. Introduction

Organ transplantation is enabling to enhance the quality of life of patients with end-stage organ failure. However, all patients suffering from end-stage organ failure do not have the equal opportunity for organ transplantation because of lack of donated organs. It is found that hesitancy and reluctance by health professionals to identify a brain dead patient as a potential donor is one reason for a shortfall in transplantable organs. In addition, health professionals' attitudes towards organ donation and their willingness to approach relatives of a brain dead patient significantly influence the bereaved family's decision-making process of consent. Increased organ procurement therefore depends on attitudes of health professionals toward organ donation. In clinical practice, nurses are the first professionals to identify a potential donor and notify the organ transplant coordinator or team. To carry out this role, nursing students and new graduates with little or no experience of the organ donation process should be educated and prepared.

Therefore the study is aimed to assess the knowledge and attitude of nursing students regarding organ donation in selected nursing Institutes of Mangalore.

2. Objectives of the Study

The objectives of the study are to:

- 1) Determine the knowledge regarding organ donation among nursing students in selected nursing institutes of Mangalore.

- 2) Find out the attitude towards organ donation among nursing students in selected nursing institutes of Mangalore.
- 3) Find the relationship between knowledge and attitude regarding organ donation among nursing students in selected nursing institutes of Mangalore.
- 4) Find an association between knowledge of nursing students regarding organ donation and demographic factors.
- 5) Find an association between attitude of nursing students regarding organ donation and demographic factors.

3. Hypotheses

- 1) H₁- There will be a significant relationship between knowledge and attitude of nursing students regarding organ donation.
- 2) H₂- There will be a significant association between knowledge regarding organ donation and demographic factors at 0.05 level of significance.
- 3) H₃ - There will be a significant association between attitude towards organ donation and demographic factors at 0.05 level of significance.

4. Conceptual Framework

The present study aims to assess the knowledge and attitude of nursing students regarding organ donation in selected nursing Institutes of Mangalore. The conceptual frame work of the study was developed on the basis of General System Model by Ludwig Von Bertalanffy. A system may be defined as a set of elements standing in interrelation among

them and with the environment. Any system consists of the input, process and output.

5. Research Methods and Materials

5.1 Research approach

A descriptive research approach and non experimental study design was used in this study.

5.2 Sample and sample size

100 B. Sc nursing students from III year and IV year

5.3 Sampling technique

Probability systematic sampling

5.4 Data collection instrument

Demographic Proforma, Structured knowledge questionnaire to assess knowledge and Attitude scale to assess attitude

6. Major Findings of the Study

6.1 Section I: Characteristics of the Samples

The data showed that majority of the nursing students i.e. 46% (n=100) belong to 21-22 years of age, 39% belong to less than 20 years of age and 15% belong to more than 23 years of age. Most of the nursing students i.e. 81% were females and only 19% were males. Fifty percent [50%] of students were from third year and 50% from fourth year B.Sc. Nursing. And majority of the nursing students 68% were Christians, 26% Hindus and the least six percent were Muslims.

6.2 Section II: knowledge of nursing students regarding organ donation

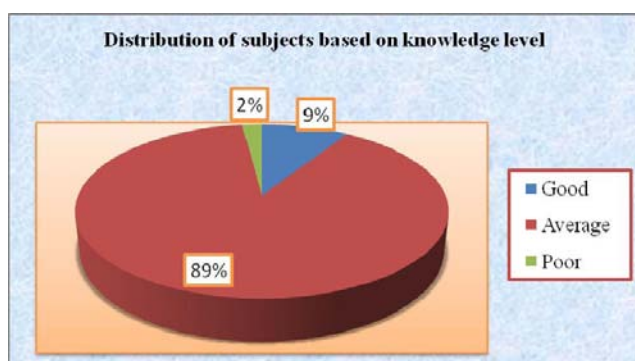


Figure 7: Pie diagram showing distribution of subjects based on knowledge level

The level of knowledge of nursing students regarding organ donation showed that majority i.e. 89% had average knowledge, nine percent good knowledge and the least i.e. Two percent had poor knowledge.

Area wise analysis showed that, nursing students had highest mean percentage in the area of 'concept of organ

donation' i.e. 63.9% (mean 7.03 ± 1.70); 'diagnostic tests to evaluate the status of organ' 52% (mean 1.04 ± 0.40); 'criteria's and the ethical principles of organ donation' 48% (mean 1.92 ± 0.92); 'indications and contraindications of organ donation' 61.75% (mean 2.47 ± 0.81); 'role of nurse in organ donation process' 52.57% (mean 2.11 ± 1.06); 'organ donation process and preservation techniques' 40% (mean 2.00 ± 1.05) respectively.

6.3 Section III: Attitude of nursing students regarding organ donation

Table 1: level of attitude of nursing students towards organ donation

N=100			
Sl. No	Attitude Rating	f	%
1.	Highly favorable (73-90)	24	24%
2.	Favorable (55-72)	74	74%
3.	Neutral (37-54)	2	2%
4.	Unfavorable (19-36)	nil	nil
5.	Highly unfavorable (<19)	nil	nil

The level of attitude of nursing students towards organ donation. The data showed that majority 74% had favourable attitude, 24% of students had highly favourable attitude, the least two percent had neutral attitude towards organ donation.

Area wise analysis showed that, nursing students had highest mean percentage in the area of 'Importance of organ donation' i.e. 92.8% (mean 4.64 ± 0.64). Whereas the mean percentage in the area 'willingness towards organ donation' was 74.17% (mean: 25.96 ± 3.77). The least mean percentage was found in the area 'factors interrupting organ donation process' was 72.34% (mean 36.17 ± 5.09).

6.4 Section IV: relationship between knowledge and attitude

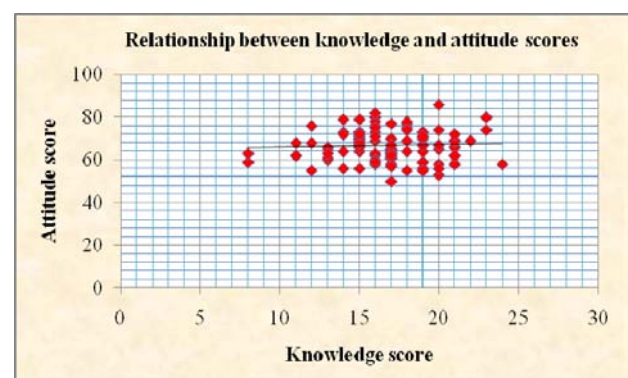


Figure 2: Relationship between knowledge and attitude scores

Karl Pearson correlation coefficient was computed in order to find the relationship between knowledge level and attitude score of nursing students on organ donation. It was found that there is a positive relationship between level of

knowledge and attitude score of nursing students on organ donation, but it is not significant ($r = 0.042$) at 0.05 level.

6.5 Section V: association between knowledge and demographic factors

Chi-Square test showed that there is no significant association between knowledge level of nursing students and the demographic variables like age, gender, year of study and religion at 0.05 level of significance.

6.6 Section VI: association between attitude and demographic factors

Chi-Square test showed that there is no significant association between attitude of nursing students and the demographic variables like age, gender, year of study and religion at 0.05 level of significance.

7. Conclusion

Present study would help nurses and other health care personnel to understand the level of knowledge and attitude of nursing students regarding organ donation. Based on the findings nurse researchers can undertake similar studies in larger settings. The findings would help the nurse administrators, nurse educators and public health authorities to develop an insight into the importance of health education regarding organ donation. Further, it would help them to take initiative in organizing CNE program on organ donation and transplant program, policies, ethical issues etc.

8. Recommendations

- A study can be conducted to evaluate the effectiveness of planned teaching program on organ donation among nursing students
- A similar study can be undertaken among adults in rural community
- A similar study can be undertaken among college students
- A similar study can be conducted among different health care professionals.

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