

Figure 1: The male and female cadaveric donation-

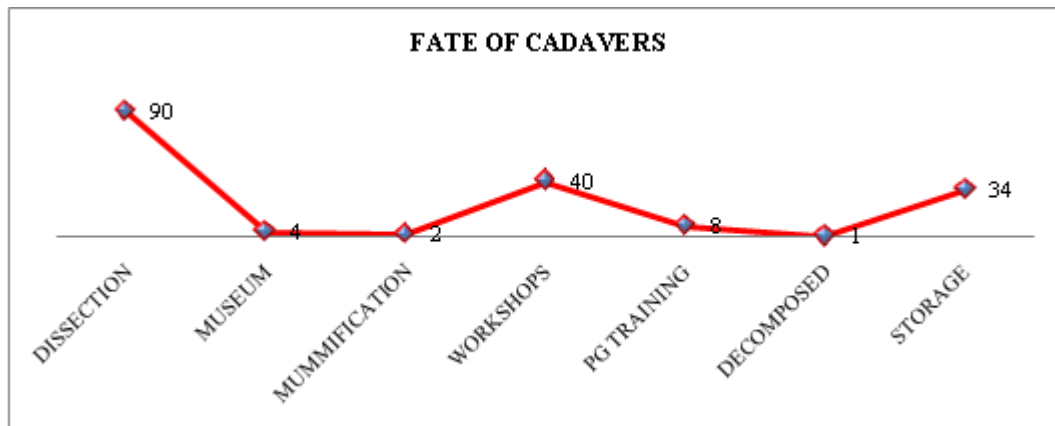


Figure 2: The fate of cadavers-

5. Discussion

In the medical profession cadavers and the donated bodies are the principal tools for teaching the anatomy and its other aspects. Hence the need of cadavers is increased in the medical colleges across the country.

Human body is very complex but it conforms to a general pattern. What is described as normal anatomy in textbooks is found less than half the time. This does not mean that rest is “abnormal”. They are variants which are present in many individuals⁽¹³⁾.

In many medical colleges across the India, there is shortage of cadavers for the purpose of medical education. However due to the Body Donation campaigns and the programmes actively done by our department; we now are having ample of bodies with about 34 in stock.

Some of the investigators found that older age was negatively associated with willingness to the body donation^(12, 16, 17, 18). Thus when compared with the other studies the average age for donation in present study was 79.18 years; which was on higher side when compared with the other studies in i.e.; Dr Anirban Sadhu et al; in West Bengal, India which was 68.57 years. This indicates that the healthy lifestyle in Maharashtra as compared to West Bengal.

Some investigators observed that donors were predominantly Males^(10, 16, 17, 18) this was also similar to our study (Fig no-1). This indicates that there is less or no awareness among the female group about the body donation

across the country. Thus the need of body donation and its importance is very positively seen in the male group. The increase in number of body donation from 2006 may be due to increase in awareness about the body donation in the society as well as the body donation programmes and campaigns held by our department equally count a lot.

6. Conclusion

Human cadavers and human material is the foundation of medical sciences. Hence to provide a sustainable solution to the requirements of health professionals it is desirable to develop and efficiently promote voluntary body donation programmes. The present study is an attempt towards creating a database of donated human bodies for the medical education.

We recommend –

- To promote the public education for the purpose and importance of body donation.
- To increase the awareness of body donation in female population.
- To make aware the students admitted in first MBBS; with them we can increase the awareness among their families, relatives and friends.
- To promote new technique of soft embalming in cadavers so more cadaveric workshops can be organized along with skill training for the health professionals and residents can be achieved.

At last appreciation to the donor and its family for their valuable contribution to the society should not be forgotten.

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