



A Study On Social Perspectives Of People On Organ Donation

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Abstract

Organ shortage has been a large issue all over the world, almost for as long as there have been organ transplants. Other than the straightforward issues like the organs not matching between the donor and the recipient, limited availability of suitable donors, logistic problems involved with the transplantation procedure etc., another large problem is the sociological perspective on organ transplantation and donation amongst the potential organ donors. People can, for an array of reasons, be for or against organ transplantation and donation, and that is what this study tries to research. It focuses on eight individuals from Serbia, and their views and opinions on the procedure. It attempts to understand why they think in that way, with the help of five aspects the gift, social capital, religion, planned behaviour and information. It also delves into participants' attitudes towards the new law on organ transplantation in India. The study infers about social perspectives of organ donors indicate they do volunteer works for charity and whenever they found a person need help, they will support immediately as per their convenience. In addition, they donate blood for needy people and goods/clothes to charity. Therefore, they allow people to go ahead of them in a queue, they also offer their seat in a bus or train to a stranger who is standing and they give lift in their car/bike to a stranger. Thus, organ donors are willing to donate their family member's organs after their death and willing to discuss about organ donation with their family members. Thus, they are willing donate their organs after their death, in case if anyone of their family members not willing to donate their organs, they will try to convince them, but any person can change his/her decision after signed for organ donation. Therefore, they are willing to sign as an organ donor in their driving license if requested in future.

Keywords: Social perspectives, organ donation,

Introduction

There are many reasons for why someone might support organ donation according to previously conducted research on the subject, however, there are many reasons against the procedure as well. Moloney and Walker (2002) have made different categories of concerns or issues which people seem to have with organ donation. The list includes: The nature of death; Scepticism of the medical profession; Concern over the next of kin's rights in the donation process; Relationship of religion to donation; Disfigurement caused through donation; Trade in human organs; Reciprocal nature of the donation; Knowledge of the recipient; Donation and its parallel to adoption; Donation and the child; Technology and its relation to donation and transplantation. There are many reasons for why an individual could be doubtful about the procedure, which further proves why the public must be educated on the subject and why it must be discussed a lot more.

It is seen as the largest issue concerning the lack of organs, other than of course more technical problems, like "the limited availability of suitable donors, logistic problems involved with the transplantation procedure, restrictive legislation, difficulties in assessing whether a deceased is registered as an organ donor or not" (Nijkampa et al., 2008), is the unwillingness of people to register as organ donors. An interesting point to bring up here is the fact that the main issue is not individuals who are adamantly against the procedure, but rather those who are unsure of their own opinions on the matter. As Parisi and Katz put it, it is this ambivalence that is one of the leading causes of people not having an organ donor card (Parisi and Katz, 1986). Schwettmann brings up the same point, writing that: "Surprisingly, respondents with a negative attitude towards the healthcare system altogether are more likely to possess an ODC (organ donor card), whereas the results for those who believe that there is dire need for reform are ambivalent." (Schwettmann, 2015)

Even though religion is often viewed as a motivation for supporting organ transplantation and donation, it can also be used as the opposite. In "Organ donation, transplantation and religion" next to all the religions which support the procedure, authors also talked about major religions which are not so keen on the matter of organ transplantation and donation (Oliver, et al., 2010). Vincent et al. (2011) noted that the issues like lack of interest and ambivalence also plague the religious community that just because someone is a religious figure and is not a registered organ donor, it does not have to mean that the reasons for that are mainly of the religious nature

Statement of the problem

Main point of this paper is to investigate the social perspectives on the organ donation, i.e., how is organ donation seen by individuals engaged in this study. Some of the potential elements that can play a major role in people's views on organ transplantation and donation are sociological in nature, like religion, social status, and social capital, but also views like supporting concepts as for example altruism, or more simple and straightforward reasons, for instance fear of having their organs stolen. These reasonings, among others, will be examined and analysed extensively in this research.

Objectives

1. To study the social perspectives of people towards organ donation
2. To analyse the level of difference in their opinion on organ donation

Research questions

- How the organ donation/transplantation viewed by the respondents?
- What are the reasons behind organ donation/transplantation expressed by the respondents?
- What are the social perspectives expressed by the respondents towards organ donation?

Methodology

The empirical data for the research will be collected from conducting qualitative interviews with both the supporters and the opponents of the organ transplantation and donation. The individuals who support the procedure will also include people who themselves received an organ, since it is very important to shed light on the experiences of those who have gone through the process of organ transplantation. What will be

discussed is how it affected them and their attitudes, other than of course saving their life or largely improving the quality of it. It will also be interesting to discuss how they feel about the new organ transplantation law in Serbia. There will also be a previously registered organ donor as well, to discuss his views on the same topic from a different perspective.

Data analysis

The data analysis is very important to any empirical study. Since aim of this paper is to study the awareness and attitude of the public towards organ donation with social perspective, the data is analysed in two sections including 1) social perspectives on organ donation and 2) opinions of public on organ donation. Hence, the detailed presentation of data showed in the following tables and analysis is discussed.

Social perspectives of people towards organ donation

Table-1: Social Perspectives of people about organ donation

S. No.	Statements	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	Total
1	I donate goods/clothes to charity	20 (5.7)	49 (14.0)	72 (20.6)	91 (26.0)	118 (33.7)	350 (100.0)
2	I do volunteer works for charity	18 (5.1)	28 (8.0)	66 (18.9)	100 (28.6)	138 (39.4)	350 (100.0)
3	I donate blood for the needy people	13 (3.7)	54 (15.4)	66 (18.9)	98 (28.0)	119 (34.0)	350 (100.0)
4	I allow people to go ahead of me in a queue	49 (14.0)	51 (14.6)	61 (17.4)	97 (27.7)	92 (26.3)	350 (100.0)
5	I offer my seat in a bus or train to a stranger who is standing	45 (12.9)	58 (16.6)	68 (19.4)	82 (23.4)	97 (27.7)	350 (100.0)
6	I give lift in my car/bike to a stranger	52 (14.9)	55 (15.7)	69 (19.7)	84 (24.0)	90 (25.7)	350 (100.0)
7	Whenever I found a person need help, I will support immediately as per my convenience	11 (3.1)	50 (14.3)	68 (19.4)	101 (28.9)	120 (34.3)	350 (100.0)

The Table-1 reveals the opinions of the organ donors about their altruism qualities. It is noticed 33.7 percent strongly agreed followed by 26.0 percent agreed that they donate goods/clothes to charity, whereas 14.0 percent disagreed and 5.7 percent strongly disagreed to the statement. It is observed 39.4 percent strongly agreed and 28.6 percent agreed that they do volunteer works for charity, but 8.0 percent disagreed and 5.1 percent strongly disagreed. It is found 34.0 percent strongly agreed and 28.0 percent agreed that they donate blood for the needy people, whereas 15.4 percent disagreed and 3.7 percent strongly disagreed. The data shows 26.3 percent strongly agreed and 27.7 percent agreed that they allow people to go ahead of them in a queue, whereas 14.6 percent disagreed and 14.0 percent strongly disagreed. From the data 27.7 percent strongly agreed and 23.4 percent agreed that they offer their seat in a bus or train to a stranger, who is standing, but 16.6 percent disagreed and 12.9 percent strongly disagreed to the statement. It is noticed 25.7 percent strongly agreed and 24.0 percent agreed that they give lift in their car/bike to a stranger, but 15.7 percent disagreed and 14.9 percent strongly disagreed. It is found 34.3 percent strongly agreed and 28.9 percent are agreed that

whenever they found a person need help, they will support to that person immediately, but 14.3 percent disagreed and 3.1 percent strongly disagree to this statement.

Table-2: Perspective difference among various demographic group organ donors

Demography Profile	Variables	N	Mean	Std. Dev	Std. Err	f-value	p-value
Gender	Male	185	25.52	3.290	0.242	6.069*	0.014
	Female	165	24.65	3.305	0.257		
Age (in years)	21-30	79	24.71	3.378	0.380	0.836	0.475
	31-40	121	25.06	3.259	0.296		
	41-50	93	25.51	3.374	0.350		
	51-60	57	25.16	3.299	0.437		
Marital Status	Unmarried	97	24.85	3.289	0.334	0.447	0.720
	Married	105	25.30	3.317	0.324		
	Widow	76	25.00	3.347	0.384		
	Divorced/separated	72	25.32	3.381	0.398		
Religion	Hindu	270	25.24	3.297	0.201	2.710	0.068
	Muslim	44	24.05	3.437	0.518		
	Christian	36	25.47	3.203	0.534		
Education	Secondary	68	24.43	3.448	0.418	1.766	0.153
	Higher Secondary	85	25.29	3.376	0.366		
	Graduate	98	24.97	3.157	0.319		
	Post Graduate	99	25.58	3.305	0.332		
Occupation	Un employee	40	24.60	2.968	0.469	1.378	0.232
	Student	51	26.00	2.980	0.417		
	Private Employee	68	24.82	3.403	0.413		
	Government Employee	74	24.77	3.237	0.376		
	Professional	78	25.46	3.440	0.390		
	Self employee	39	24.95	3.748	0.600		
Monthly Income	Nil	69	25.09	3.442	0.414	0.800	0.526
	Less than 15,000	58	25.71	3.423	0.450		
	15,000-30,000	77	25.23	3.162	0.360		
	30,000-50,000	86	24.73	3.208	0.346		
	Above 50,000	60	24.97	3.459	0.447		
	Total	350	25.11	3.321	0.178		

Altruism qualities difference among various demographic group organ donors are shown in the Table-2. According to gender group, it is noticed that the average perspective score of 25.52 perceived by male found significantly higher than the average perspective score of 24.65 perceived by female and their respective standard deviations are 3.290 and 3.305. Therefore, the calculated f-value 6.069 is significant at 5% level because the p-value is 0.014. This infers that there is a significant difference among gender group towards altruism qualities differences on organ donors.

Regarding the age group it is observed that the average perspective score of 25.51 perceived by 41-50 years age group found higher than the other groups and the least average perspective score of 24.71 perceived by 21-30 years and their respective standard deviations are 3.374 and 3.378. With these mean and standard deviation differences the calculated f-value 0.836 is not significant because the p-value is 0.475. This indicates that there is no significant difference among age group towards altruism qualities differences on organ donors.

With reference to marital status it is noticed that the average perspective score of 25.32 perceived by divorced/separated found higher than the other marital groups and least was 24.85 perceived by unmarried. And also their respective standard deviations are 3.381 and 3.289. With these mean and standard deviation

differences the calculated f-value 0.447 is not significant because the p-value is 0.720. This indicates that there is no significant difference among marital status towards altruism qualities differences on organ donors.

The data reveals religious group of donors, the average perspective score of 25.47 perceived by Christians found higher than the average perspective score of 24.05 perceived by Muslims and their respective standard deviations are 3.203 and 3.437. Therefore, the calculated f-value 2.710 is not significant because the p-value is 0.068. This infers that there is no significant difference among religious group towards altruism qualities differences on organ donors.

With reference to the education group of donors it is observed that the average perspective score of 25.58 perceived by post graduates found higher than the other education groups and the least average perspective score of 24.43 perceived by secondary and their respective standard deviation are 3.305 and 3.448. With these mean and standard deviation differences the calculated f-value 1.766 is not significant because the p-value is 0.153. This indicates that there is no significant difference among education groups towards altruism qualities differences on organ donors.

According to the occupation group it shows that the average perspective score of 26.00 perceived by students found higher than the other groups and the least average perspective score of 24.60 perceived by employees and their respective standard deviations are 2.980 and 2.968. With these mean and standard deviation differences the calculated f-value 1.378 is not significant because the p-value is 0.232. This infers that there is no significant difference among the occupation group towards altruism qualities differences on organ donors.

Regarding monthly income groups it is observed that the highest average perspective score of 25.71 perceived by less than Rs.15,000 income group than other groups and the least perspective average score of 24.73 is perceived by Rs.30,000-50,000 and their respective standard deviations are 3.423 and 3.208. With these mean and standard deviation differences the calculated f-value 0.800 is not significant because the p-value is 0.526. This indicates that there is no significant difference among monthly income towards altruism qualities differences on organ donors.

Opinions of donor towards organ donation

Table-3: opinions of organ donors towards organ donation

S. No.	Statements	No	Yes	Total
1	I am willing to donate my organs after my death	132 (37.7)	218 (62.3)	350 (100.0)
2	I am willing to sign as an organ donor in my driving license if requested in future	158 (45.1)	192 (54.9)	350 (100.0)
3	I am willing to donate my family member's organs after their death	147 (42.0)	203 (58.0)	350 (100.0)
4	I am willing to discuss about organ donation with my family members	101 (28.9)	249 (71.1)	350 (100.0)
5	If anyone of my family members not willing to donate their organs, I will try to convince them	138 (39.4)	212 (60.6)	350 (100.0)

6	Can any person change his/her decision after signed for organ donation?	147 (42.0)	203 (58.0)	350 (100.0)
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The Table-3 represents the willingness of organ donor towards organ donation. It is noticed majority of 62.3 percent opined that they are willing to donate their organs after their death and least number of 37.7 percent opined that they are not willing to donate their organs after their death. It is observed as many as 54.9 percent opined that they are willing to sign as an organ donor in their driving license if requested in future, but 45.1 opined that they are not willing to sign as an organ donor in their driving license if requested in future. It is found 58.0 percent opined that they are willing to donate their family member's organs after their death and 42.0 percent opined that they are not willing to donate their family member's organs after their death.

The data shows 71.1 percent are willing to discuss about organ donation with their family member's, but 28.9 percent are not willing to discuss about organ donation with their family member's. It is found 60.6 percent said if anyone of their family members not willing to donate their organs, they will try to convince them to donate organs and 39.4 percent said if anyone of their family members not willing to donate their organs, they will not try to convince them to donate organs. It is noticed 58.0 percent opined positive to the statement 'can any person change his/her decision after signed for organ donation, but 42.0 percent opined negative to this statement.

Table-4: Difference in the opinions of various demographic groups towards organ donation

Demography Profile	Variables	N	Mean	Std. Dev	Std. Err	f-value	p-value
Gender	Male	185	9.70	1.162	0.085	0.829	0.363
	Female	165	9.59	1.194	0.093		
Age (in years)	21-30	79	9.52	1.119	0.126	0.554	0.646
	31-40	121	9.70	1.249	0.114		
	41-50	93	9.72	1.183	0.123		
	51-60	57	9.60	1.100	0.146		
Marital Status	Unmarried	97	9.53	1.191	0.121	2.405	0.067
	Married	105	9.90	1.079	0.105		
	Widow	76	9.54	1.227	0.141		
	Divorced/separated	72	9.56	1.209	0.142		
Religion	Hindu	270	9.61	1.192	0.073	0.488	0.614
	Muslim	44	9.77	1.217	0.184		
	Christian	36	9.75	1.025	0.171		
Education	Secondary	68	9.65	1.143	0.139	1.866	0.135
	Higher Secondary	85	9.88	1.189	0.129		
	Graduate	98	9.62	1.089	0.110		
	Post Graduate	99	9.47	1.256	0.126		
Occupation	Un employee	40	9.78	1.097	0.174	0.407	0.844
	Student	51	9.49	1.155	0.162		
	Private Employee	68	9.62	1.210	0.147		
	Government Employee	74	9.68	1.251	0.145		
	Professional	78	9.73	1.224	0.139		
	Self employee	39	9.56	1.021	0.163		
Monthly Income	Nil	69	9.35	1.281	0.154	2.221	0.066
	Less than 15,000	58	9.78	1.009	0.133		
	15,000-30,000	77	9.64	1.202	0.137		
	30,000-50,000	86	9.62	1.065	0.115		
	Above 50,000	60	9.93	1.274	0.164		
	Total	350	9.65	1.177	0.063		

Willingness difference among various demographic group organ donors is shown in the Table-4.40. According to gender group, it is noticed that the average perspective score of 9.70 perceived by male found higher than the average perspective score of 9.59 perceived by female and their respective standard deviations

are 1.162 and 1.194. Therefore, the calculated f-value 0.829 is not significant because the p-value is 0.363. This infers that there is no significant difference among gender group towards willingness of donors about organ donation.

Regarding to the age group it is identified that the average perspective score of 9.72 perceived by 41-50 years age group found higher than the other groups and the least average perspective score of 9.52 perceived by 21-30 years and their respective standard deviations are 1.183 and 1.119. With these mean and standard deviation differences the calculated f-value 0.554 is not significant because the p-value is 0.646. This indicates that there is no significant difference among age group towards willingness of donors about organ donation.

With reference to marital status it is noticed that the average perspective score of 9.90 perceived by married found higher than the other marital groups and least was 9.53 perceived by unmarried. And also their respective standard deviations are 1.079 and 1.191. With these mean and standard deviation differences the calculated f-value 2.405 is not significant because the p-value is 0.067. This indicates that there is no significant difference among marital status towards willingness of donors about organ donation.

The data reveals religious group of donors, the average perspective score of 9.77 perceived by Muslims found higher than the average perspective score of 9.61 perceived by Hindus and their respective standard deviations are 1.217 and 1.192. Therefore, the calculated f-value 0.488 is not significant because the p-value is 0.614. This infers that there is no significant difference among religious group towards willingness of donors about organ donation.

With reference to the education group of donors it is observed that the average perspective score of 9.88 perceived by higher secondary found higher than the other education groups and the least average perspective score of 9.47 perceived by Post graduates and their respective standard deviation are 1.189 and 1.256. With these mean and standard deviation differences the calculated f-value 1.866 is not significant because the p-value is 0.135. This indicates that there is no significant difference among education groups towards willingness of donors about organ donation.

According to the occupation group it shows that the average perspective score of 9.78 perceived by un-employees found higher than the other groups and the least average perspective score of 9.49 perceived by students and their respective standard deviations are 1.097 and 1.155. With these mean and standard deviation differences the calculated f-value 0.407 is not significant because the p-value is 0.844. This infers that there is no significant difference among the occupation group towards willingness of donors about organ donation.

Regarding to monthly income groups it is noticed that highest average perspective score of 9.93 perceived by above Rs.50,000 than the other groups and the least perspective average score of 9.35 is perceived by no income and their respective standard deviations are 1.274 and 1.281. With these mean and standard deviation differences the calculated f-value 2.221 is not significant because the p-value is 0.066. This indicates that there is no significant difference among monthly income towards willingness of donors about organ donation.

Conclusion

The study infers about social perspectives of organ donors indicate they do volunteer works for charity and whenever they found a person need help, they will support immediately as per their convenience. In addition, they donate blood for needy people and goods/clothes to charity. Therefore, they allow people to go ahead of them in a queue, they also offer their seat in a bus or train to a stranger who is standing and they give lift in their car/bike to a stranger. Thus, organ donors are willing to donate their family member's organs after their death and willing to discuss about organ donation with their family members. Thus, they are willing donate their organs after their death, in case if anyone of their family members not willing to donate their organs, they will try to convince them, but any person can change his/her decision after signed for organ donation. Therefore, they are willing to sign as an organ donor in their driving license if requested in future.

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