

Youth Perception and Readiness for Organ Donation: A Survey-Based Study in Colleges of Ahmadabad District

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ABSTRACT

The study investigates awareness, perception, and willingness to donate organs in students through a sample of 70 students. A descriptive-analytical approach was adopted, and a structured questionnaire was the primary data collection tool. The questionnaire contained Likert-scale and demographic questions regarding awareness, willingness, cultural beliefs, and perceptions of social responsibility. Data were analyzed through Pearson correlation, Chi-square tests, and independent t-tests using SPSS. Findings showed that awareness of organ donation was statistically nonsignificantly and weakly correlated with willingness to register as a donor. Cultural beliefs were also not significant in determining willingness, with a linear trend present. No statistically significant gender differences in perceptions were found, indicating homogeneous attitudes among both male and female respondents. The findings point to gaps in awareness and registration as donors. The study proposes targeted awareness campaigns and education interventions to encourage positive donor attitudes.

Keywords: Youth perception, readiness, organ donation, awareness, attitude, willingness, Ahmedabad colleges, survey study

INTRODUCTION

Organ donation is a life-saving medical intervention whereby healthy organs from a donor are excised and implanted in a recipient whose organ has malfunctioned or is irreparable. Organ donation, worldwide, has become a crucial healthcare intervention, providing hope to thousands of transplant patients. Demand and supply of donor organs in India, however, remain grossly mismatched. According to the National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation (NOTTO), the organ donation rate in the country remains significantly lower compared to developed nations, resulting in unnecessary loss of lives.

Young adults, especially students, are a valuable target for awareness and obtaining organ donation commitments. Their life stage, with its receptiveness to new concepts, greater educational exposure, and peer influence, renders them a high-potential awareness campaign target. Positive youths' perception and preparedness could result in increased registration rates and assist in closing the gap in organ shortage.

Ahmedabad district, which is endowed with educational centers and a high youth population, is an ideal location to study this issue. The attitude and preparedness of college youth here can give policymakers, NGOs, and health administrators important insights to craft focused

awareness campaigns. Cultural beliefs, level of knowledge, family, and the view of the healthcare system tend to influence young people's attitudes towards organ donation.

This research is proposed to evaluate the existing perception, awareness, and willingness of the youth population in the Ahmedabad district towards organ donation, to determine the hindrances to joining, and to gauge the extent of readiness in becoming potential donors. Through the structured survey in colleges, the study hopes to fill the knowledge gap and recommend appropriate interventions to enhance organ donation in the area.

LITERATURE REVIEW

In India, there are studies that demonstrate the awareness-registration gap. K et al. (2024) demonstrated that structured health education in Tamil Nadu improved awareness (58.4% to 77.4%) and willingness to donate (56.6% to 66.8%), but religious concerns persisted for two-thirds. In Indian medical students, Singh et al. (2024) found relatively positive attitudes (68.1%), but registration was performed by only 3.8%, and fear of mutilation of the body and religion were hindrances. Narayanan et al. (2023) also found high awareness (98.1%) in health science undergraduates of Coimbatore, but pledging was low (10.5%), with mistrust and legal concerns being significant. Larger public samples also point towards low understanding: Gupta et al. (2021) demonstrated that students and teachers in Mumbai were ill-informed regarding brain death but highly willing to pledge. Ghosh et al. (2025) again found poor knowledge among non-medical hospital staff in West Bengal, with only 36.7% willing to pledge and not a single registered, citing mistrust and unawareness. Subbaiyan et al. (2020), however, found high willingness among ICU staff (91%) and patient relatives (85.5%), emphasizing the necessity for ICU-based counselling.

International evidence reveals such complexities. In Russia, Anisimov et al. (2022) reported high youth support for donation with positive associations such as "life" and "help" prevailing. In the U.S., Naibauer et al. (2025) reported high awareness of living donation (94%) but lower acceptance of non-directed donation (22%), on altruism vs. perceived risk and cost. In Saudi Arabia, Alobaidi (2023) reported that although almost all the respondents (98.6%) had heard of organ donation, only 19.6% would register, with fear of less care, disfigurement, and family opposition outweighing religious endorsement. In Pakistan, Ali et al. (2025) showed that although 84% had a positive view of donation, religious permissibility uncertainty ruled out commitment. In the UK, Muaid (2022) reported three clusters of attitudes—knowledge seekers, skeptics, and altruists—emphasizing campaign personalization. In Canada, Guillaume et al. (2019) reported that parental agreement to pediatric donation was grounded in altruism, respect for a child's autonomy, and trust, while refusals were grounded in grief and mistrust.

Throughout populations, the common themes are: awareness does not necessarily translate to registration; mistrust, misinformation, and religious/ethical objections are still significant barriers; and education—namely when interactive, contextual, and emotionally engaging—is brought to the fore as central. Establishing trust in healthcare systems, spiritual and community leaders, and incorporating organ donation education into curricula and ICU counseling appears to be needed to bridge the gap from positive attitudes toward donor registration.

RESEARCH GAP

Even though organ donation has been a debated issue in India, most of the available literature has been from general public and healthcare professionals with little focus on youth, particularly college students. There are few special studies on youth willingness and preparedness in the Ahmedabad district that can be utilized to influence the attitude of society and facilitate donor registration. There are few survey-based studies that incorporate perception and preparedness among the youth. This provides a window of opportunity for special research to determine youth perceptions and develop awareness campaigns influencing their beliefs, incentives, and concerns.

OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

The study aims to assess the awareness and perceptions of college students in Ahmadabad district regarding organ donation and to evaluate their readiness to register as organ donors. It also seeks to identify the cultural, social, and informational factors influencing their attitudes toward organ donation.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The study followed a descriptive and analytical design using both quantitative and qualitative approaches to assess students' perceptions, attitudes, and awareness regarding organ donation. A sample of 70 college students, selected through convenience sampling, represented the study population. Data were collected using a structured questionnaire covering demographic details and Likert-scale items on awareness, willingness, beliefs, and perceptions related to organ donation.

Data Analysis Tool & Techniques:

Data were coded and analysed using SPSS. Pearson Correlation was used to assess the relationship between awareness and willingness, the Chi-Square test examined the influence of cultural beliefs, and the Independent Sample t-test measured gender differences in perceptions. The survey tool was pre-tested for clarity and consistency, and internal reliability was assessed using Cronbach's Alpha wherever applicable.

DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

H₀: There is no significant relationship between students' awareness level and their readiness to register for organ donation.

H₁: There is a significant relationship between students' awareness level and their readiness to register for organ donation.

Correlations			
		I am aware of the concept of organ donation.	I would like to register as an organ donor in the future.
I am aware of the concept of organ donation.	Pearson Correlation	1	.145
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.231
	N	70	70
	Pearson Correlation	.145	1

I would like to register as an organ donor in the future.	Sig. (2-tailed)	.231	
	N	70	70

The Pearson correlation test showed a very weak positive association ($r = 0.145$) between awareness of organ donation and students' intention to register, but this relationship was not statistically significant ($p = 0.231$). This indicates that awareness does not meaningfully influence students' future registration intentions. Therefore, the null hypothesis is accepted, confirming that awareness is not a significant factor in determining willingness to register as an organ donor in this sample.

H₀: Cultural beliefs do not significantly influence students' willingness to donate organs.

H₁: Cultural beliefs significantly influence students' willingness to donate organs.

Chi-Square Tests			
	Value	df	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	21.944 ^a	16	.145
Likelihood Ratio	24.674	16	.076
Linear-by-Linear Association	5.137	1	.023
N of Valid Cases	70		
a. 25 cells (100.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 1.14.			

A Chi-Square test was used to assess whether cultural beliefs significantly influence students' willingness to donate organs. The Pearson Chi-Square result ($p = 0.145$) showed no significant association, indicating cultural beliefs do not meaningfully affect willingness to donate in this sample. Although the Linear-by-Linear Association test ($p = 0.023$) suggested a possible ordinal trend, it does not override the main Chi-Square outcome. The test's validity is further limited because all cells had expected counts below 5, violating Chi-Square assumptions. Therefore, the null hypothesis is accepted, confirming that cultural beliefs do not significantly impact students' willingness to donate organs.

H₀: Gender does not significantly affect perception towards organ donation among college students.

H₁: Gender significantly affects perception towards organ donation among college students.

Group Statistics					
	Gender	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error
Organ donation is an important social responsibility.	Male	42	2.7619	1.33999	.20677
	Female	28	2.5000	1.26198	.23849

Independent Samples Test		
	Levene's Test for Equality of Variances	t-test for Equality of Means

		F	Sig.	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	Std. Error Difference	Lo 95%	Upper 95%
Organ donation is an important social responsibility.	Equal variances assumed	.274	.602	.820	68	.415	.26190	.31950	-.37565	.89946
	Equal variances not assumed			.830	60.379	.410	.26190	.31564	-.36939	.89320

Independent samples t-test was employed to determine whether gender significantly impacted the perception of organ donation as a vital social responsibility among university students. Levene's Test for Equality of Variances gave a p-value of 0.602, which is greater than 0.05, indicating that the assumption of equal variances holds. Based on this assumption, the t-test gave a t-value of 0.820 with degrees of freedom 68 and a p-value of 0.415. Since the p-value is greater than 0.05, the difference between female students' (M = 2.5000, SD = 1.26198) and male students' (M = 2.7619, SD = 1.33999) mean scores is not statistically significant. This indicates that gender has no meaningful effect on the perception of organ donation as a social responsibility among students in this population. The null hypothesis (H_0) that gender has no noteworthy effect on perception towards organ donation is hence accepted, while the alternative hypothesis (H_1) is rejected.

CONCLUSION

The study examined students' perceptions of organ donation by focusing on awareness, cultural beliefs, and gender differences. The findings showed that none of these factors significantly influenced students' willingness to donate or their overall perceptions. A very weak positive correlation ($r = 0.145$) was found between awareness and willingness to register, but it was statistically insignificant ($p = 0.231$), indicating that awareness alone does not lead to actual registration. The Chi-Square test revealed no significant relationship between cultural beliefs and willingness to donate ($p = 0.145$), and although the Linear-by-Linear test suggested a possible trend, its validity was limited due to assumption violations. Thus, cultural beliefs could not be established as a reliable predictor. Gender analysis using an independent t-test also showed no significant difference between male and female students ($p = 0.415$), implying similar views across genders. Overall, the study suggests that other factors—such as trust in the healthcare system, personal values, and structural barriers—may play a more meaningful role in shaping students' willingness to register as organ donors.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the study, interventions must transcend awareness raising and must address motivational and structural enablers in actuality. Interactive educational courses must be integrated into universities to remove fears, myths, and bring into focus the life-saving function of organ donation. Coordination of medical professionals for clear information on registration can bridge the knowledge-practice gap. Counseling and peer advocacy campaigns can further

reinforce individual motivation. Since cultural and gender factors were not found to be influential, campaigns must possess a universal appeal, focusing on trust building, simplification of donor registration, and instilling social responsibility among all the students.

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Nil

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No any conflicts of interest arise

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