

Knowledge and Attitude toward organ donation among female students at Al-Baha University, Saudi Arabia

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ABSTRACT

Background: Organ donation is vital and can save lives. However, there is a need for more organ donors in Saudi Arabia, specifically in the Al-Baha region. Studying university students' knowledge and attitudes towards organ donation is essential, as they are future leaders and influencers who can shape attitudes and overcome barriers to donation.

Objective: The study aimed to assess the knowledge and attitudes toward organ donation among female students at Al-Baha University, Al-Baha, Saudi Arabia.

Setting: Al-Baha University, Al-Baha, Saudi Arabia.

Design: A cross-sectional observational study.

Method: The study was conducted among 556 female students from six faculties (Medicine, Pharmacy, Applied Medical Sciences, Science, Arts and Humanities, and Business) using random sampling from October 2023 to January 2024. The study conducted descriptive statistics, as well as Kruskal-Wallis and Chi-square tests to compare between groups. The p -value < 0.05 was considered significant.

Result: The participants were primarily between 18 and 24, mostly single. Most participants held a Bachelor's degree, and their areas of study varied across disciplines. The study found that the Internet and social media were the primary sources of knowledge about organ donation for the participants. Younger (91.5%), single (88%) students, and those with a higher level of education (93%) tended to have knowledge about organ donation, with relatively consistent knowledge scores. Interestingly, there was a significant difference in the level of knowledge about organ donation among different academic levels (p -value = 0.019). The study also found that attitudes towards organ donation varied across faculties (p -value = 0.003). There was a significant difference in willingness and preference to donate organs between faculties (p -value = 0.027) and academic level (p -value = 0.003). Motives for organ donation were consistent across groups. 85% of students do not have an organ donor card, while only 12% have one, with a significant difference noted across academic levels (p -value = 0.005). However, lack of awareness or decision (47%), fear (29%), and concerns about medical treatment (12%) were the most important barriers to organ donation.

Conclusion: The level of knowledge of organ donation did not differ significantly between age, marital status, academic degree, and faculty in the current study. Those with higher academic progression tend to have higher knowledge scores (p -value = 0.019). The study also revealed different attitudes towards organ donation across faculties and academic levels. Furthermore, the study provided insights into willingness and preference to donate organs, motives for possessing organ donor cards, and reasons for refusal. These findings contribute to the current literature on organ donation attitudes in Saudi Arabia.

Keywords: Organ donation, attitude, knowledge, university students.

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