

Beliefs and Intention to Organ Donation in Northern Region of Saudi Arabia: Online Cross-Sectional Survey

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ABSTRACT

There is a considerable gap between the availability and demand for organs in the Middle East, including Saudi Arabia. This study investigated community beliefs and intentions toward organ donation in the northern region, Saudi Arabia. An online questionnaire was distributed to 518 Saudi citizens aged 18 years and older. More than 50% of participants were female, 50% were married, 84% had a university-level education, and 47% were employed in government institutions. Assessment of participants' beliefs towards organ donation showed positive behavioral beliefs, where more than half of the participants agreed that organ donation could save lives (62%) and should be promoted (67%). Normative beliefs displayed the importance of getting the opinions of family members (69%) and their religion (75%). More than 50% expressed uncertainty about their willingness to donate tissue and/or organs after death, including kidneys (62%), eyes (53%), heart (57%), liver (55%), lungs (58%), and bone marrow (60%). Additionally, 60% had not decided to register as donors, and 52% had not advised their families to do so. Correlation analysis revealed a significant independent effect of each belief on the intention to donate organs ($p < 0.001^*$). Behavioural, normative, and control beliefs among the community in the northern region contribute to an increased intention to donate organs. However, many participants remained uncertain about applying to donate organs after death.

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