

Introduction

Purpose of Study:

The purpose of this study was to compare attitude difference among young adults organ donors and non-organ donors.

Review of Literatures:

- The level of persuasive language used when asking the public about being an organ donor affects the results greatly (Sallis et al., 2018).
 - Participants living in England, Scotland and Wales who were renewing their vehicle tax or who were registering for a driving license online read a prompt at the end of their transactions that said, "If you needed an organ transplant would you have one? If so please help others" (Sallis et al., 2018, p.3). This persuasive wording on the side of the prompt made individuals 1.38 times more likely to register as organ donors.
- According to Jagadeesh et al. (2018), distrusted towards the health-care system affected the attitudes regarding organ donations greatly.
 - Of the 300 participants who were male taxi drivers in India, Jagadees et al.(2018) disclosed, 76.89% participants feared that their organs would not be going to someone who needed it the most.
- In a study done in Mexico, Marván et. al. (2017) revealed that participants' education level affected their reasoning on the reason of currently not being an organ donor. This study consisted of 218 adults who were unwilling to be organ donors. The study asked them to complete the sentence "I do not want to donate my organs after death because organ donation is..." (p. 2)
- The main answer of participants with a limited educational background was "do not know where the organs would be going" (Marván et al., 2017, p.2).
 - Subjects with a higher education had different reasons, such as "lack of information and lack of custom" (Marván et al., 2017, p.2).

Hypotheses:

The researcher hypothesized that:

- Young adults who were already registered as organ donors, would understand the impact that their organs would have on the others' lives and on their communities;
- Young adults who were not registered organ donors would have mistrust in doctors and other medical personnel;
- Young adults who were not registered organ donors would believe organ donation is unethical;
- Young adults received higher education would be associated with being registered organ donors.

Methods

Subjects:

- The subjects in this study were 29 young adults, aged between 18 and 45 with at least high school education from Hamden, Connecticut; with:
 - 20 females and nine males;
 - 18 were registered organ donors and 11 were not registered organ donors;
 - 19 had a high school diplomas, five had bachelor's degrees, three had master's degrees, and two had doctorate degrees.

Measuring Instruments:

The measuring instrument was Attitudes Towards Registering as an Organ Donor Questionnaire (Reynolds-Tylus & Quick, 2017), which consisted of 29 items including demographics, and psychological questions.

- Demographic data included sex, organ donor or non-organ donor, which are nominal data; race and educational level are ordinal data, and age is ratio data.
- The remaining items on the measuring instrument were interval data, which consisted of statements that were measured on a 7-point Likert scale, with 1 represents "strongly disagreed", and 7 represents "strongly agreed".

Procedures:

- The researcher recruited subjects in Hamden, Connecticut at the Hamden annual spring event;
- The researcher invited qualified subjects to complete the measuring instrument;
- Before the subjects start to complete the measuring instrument, they were required to read and sign an informed consent form, which is to inform the subjects on the purpose, and to disclose all information that the subjects should know before volunteering in this study;
- The data were kept in a secured electronic file and stored in a password protected account managed by the university that the researcher affiliated to. Only the researcher had access to the data.

Statistical Analyses:

- The researcher used SPSS 25 to analyze the data by performing:
 - three independent group *t*-tests to analyze the mean differences of (a) subjects' perceptions on the impact organ donation can have on their community; (b) subjects' trust in doctors and medical personnel; and (c) their belief on the reason of being ethical for organ donation between organ donors and non-organ donors;
 - a Chi-square test to analyze the association between subjects who are organ donors, and their current educational level;
 - The level of significance was .05;
 - Age was analyzed by mean and standard deviations;
 - Frequencies of other demographic data were reported.

Results

- A non-significant mean difference was found between non-organ donors and organ donors in:
 - the belief that joining the organ donor registry is good for you and your community ($t = 1.70, df = 27, p = .100$);
 - the belief that doctors would do everything possible to save one's life in the event of an emergency ($t = .592, df = 27, p = .559$); and
 - the belief that removing organs would be unethical ($t = -2.026, df = 27, p = .053$).
- There was also no significant association between non-organ donors and organ donors, as well as educational level of the subjects ($\chi^2 = 6.049, p = 1.09$).

Discussion

- The researcher reveals that, registered organ donors and non-registered organ donors have similar views on the benefits organ donating can have on their community; in the belief that doctors would do everything possible to save one's life in the event of an emergency; and in the belief that, removing organs is unethical.
- The researcher also discloses that educational level of young adults, and status of being a registered organ donor is not associated.
- According to Jagadeesh et al. (2018), educational level affects the opinions and understandings regarding organ donations. However, the present study disclosed no association between educational level and being organ donors or not.
- Marván (2017) found that the most concerning and dominant response from non-organ donors was mistrust in the medical system. However, this study shows that organ donors and non-organ donors have similar views in the belief that doctors would do everything possible to one's life in the event of an emergency, which is a different finding from the present study.

Limitation:

- A limitation of this study is that most of the young adults participated in the present study were white and females, because the researcher was unable to access young adults from different races and sex.

Recommendations:

- Recommendation for future researchers are:
 - collecting data early, because some young adults are uncomfortable with this study topic and may decline to participate in the study;
 - adding persuasive writing in the measuring instrument. According to Sallis et al. (2018), the level of persuasive language used when asking the public about being an organ donor affects the results greatly.
- Recommendation to pediatricians is to inform adolescents above the age of 16 on organ donation by providing them with information flyers during the children's annual physical. The researcher believes educating adolescence during their annual physical is a good way to inform and educate them on the issue, without making them feel pressured by having them to make any immediate decisions regarding to organ donation.

References

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