



## Original Research

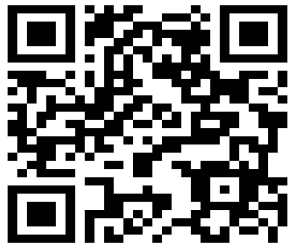
# Nursing Students' Attitudes about Organ Donation in University of Mosul/Iraq

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### Abstract:

#### Background:

Organ donation is the contribution of a human organ or tissue from an alive or dead person to a living recipient that needs transplantation. The study aims to assess the nursing students' attitudes about organ donation in.

**Methodology:** Descriptive study design was used to adopted current study. The study extended from (1/11/2023) to (15/4/2024). Simple random sampling method was used to select (291) male and female nursing students from all stages in morning and evening studies. A questionnaire was developed based on the previous study related to the research problem. The instrument consists of two parts: part one includes the demographic variables, The second part of the questionnaire consists of 18 items to assess the students attitudes about organ donation. A Likert 4 was used to answer the questions it consists of: (4) items to assess nursing students' attitudes about organ donation. The collected data was arranged analyzed and presented in tables by using frequency and percentage, mean, mean of score, and standard deviation by using SPSS version 26.

**Results:** The study results indicated that the most of the study participants have a natural attitude regarding organ donation (205), (70.45%). While followed by those whose have good attitude (71), (24.39), and finally, (15), (5.16) of them have a negative attitude regarding organ donation.

**Conclusions:** The study concluded that most students had neutral attitudes about organ donation While approximately a quarter of the sample had good attitudes about organ donation.

**Keywords:** Nursing Students', Attitudes, Organ Donation, University of Mosul

## Introduction:

Organ donation is the contribution of a human organ or tissue from an alive or dead person to a living recipient that needs transplantation. The implantation of an organ is probably the only effective management for organ failure <sup>(1)</sup>. Worldwide, kidney transplantation is the most commonly performed procedure, as many patients have end-stage kidney disease (ESKD). Other less common organ transplantations include the liver, heart, pancreas, lungs, and intestine. Globally, chronic kidney disease and ESKD continue to increase in both developed and developing countries. In general, organ transplantation improves the lifespan of patients, minimizes morbidity, improves the quality of life, permits social and medical recovery, and cuts the costs associated with medical care <sup>(2)</sup>. One of the greatest achievements in the field of medicine in the 21st century is organ transplants. Transplants still save the lives of thousands of people worldwide because they have enabled the replacement of vital organs for humans. According to the National Transplant Organization (EOM), November 1st has been designated as "National Organ Donation Day"<sup>(3)</sup>. Every year on this day, EOM makes sure to remind the general public of the importance of organ donation. It is a fact that organ donation has been a point of friction, debate and disagreement for many years. Many issues remain a concern, such as organs being transplanted, whether one has the right to donate their organs, whether it is ethical to donate in life or after death, whether brain death is identified as definitive human death, etc. Organ Donation is about offering organs to be transplanted by a fellow human being (donor) who is no longer in life. Up to twenty patients in need of heart, lungs, liver, kidney, cornea, skin or even bones can be saved from a single donor<sup>(4)</sup>. Despite the importance of organ donation in improving the quality of life, there has been a shortage of donated organs worldwide. This is because the number of patients on the waiting list is rapidly increasing, but the number of organ donors is not keeping up to meet the demand<sup>(5)</sup>. This unbalance between the

available organ donations and the patients who require organ transplantation is interrupted, which generates a severe problem in the medical field, and subsequently increases the death rate. Ethical, cultural, legal, and religious issues as well as age, gender, education, and income are reported to be the main barriers to donating organs <sup>(6)</sup>. The aim of the study to assess the Nursing students' attitudes about organ donation in university of Mosul.

## Methods and Materials:

Prior to the actual collection of the data, formal administration approval was obtained from department of the clinical science/ college of nursing/ university of Mosul to conduct the study. Descriptive study design was used to adopted current study. The study extended from (1/11/2023) to (15/4/2024). Simple random sampling method was used to select (291) male and female nursing students from all stages in morning and evening studies. The study was conducted at college of nursing in university of Mosul/ Iraq. A questionnaire was developed based on the previous study related to the research problem. The instrument consists of two parts: part one includes the demographic variables for nursing students consist of (age, gender, educational stages, marital status, Address). The second part of the questionnaire consists of 18 items. A Likert 4 was used to answer the questions it consists of: (4) items to assess nursing students' attitudes about organ donation. Validity tested by presenting it to a group of experts in the several fields includes nursing, medicine and medical statistics. The reliability was checked through pilot study was conducted in 10 students with from all college stages and analyzed by person correlation in the data by SPSS program at value (0.82). The data were collected by interviewing the students and explaining the questionnaire's vocabulary accurately. The collected data was arranged analyzed and presented in tables by using frequency and percentage, mean, mean of score, and standard deviation by using SPSS version 26<sup>(7-68)</sup>.

**Results:**

**Table (1): Distribution of the study sample according to their demographic variables**

Variables		No.	%
Age	Less than 20 years	25	8.6%
	20-25	135	46.4%
	26-30	87	29.9%
	More than 30 years	44	15.1%
Gender	Male	166	57.0%
	Female	125	43.0%
Stage	First stage	33	11.3%
	Second stage	44	15.1%
	Third stage	33	11.3%
	Fourth stage	181	62.2%
Study type	Morning study	224	77.0%
	Evening study	67	23.0%
Marital status	Single	244	83.8%
	Married	27	9.3%
	Divorced	20	6.9%
Address	With family	235	80.8%
	Student accommodation	38	13.1%
	Student Housing	18	6.2%

**Table (2): Distribution of the study sample according to their attitudes regarding organ donation.**

Attitudes	No.	%	Mean	SD	Maximum	Minimum
Negative (1-1.99)	15	5.16	1.822	0.101	1.94	1.61
Neutral (2-2.99)	205	70.45	9.561	0.266	2.94	2
Positive (3 or more)	71	24.39	3.186	0.168	3.72	3
<b>Total</b>	2091	100%	2.67	0.410	3.72	1.61

**Table (3): Correlations between nursing students' attitudes with their sociodemographic variables.**

Spearman's rho		Age	Gender	Stage	Study type	Marital status
Attitudes	Correlation Coefficient	0.048	-0.095	-0.102	-0.076	0.017
	Sig. (2-tailed)	0.415	0.106*	0.083	0.198	0.778
	N	291	291	291	291	291

\* Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

## Discussion:

Despite the importance of organ donation, there is a significant variation in the acceptance rates for organ donation across different countries and regions, with figures ranging from 31.3 to 85%<sup>2-6</sup>. Several factors have been identified as influencing people's attitudes towards organ donation, such as religious beliefs, cultural norms, knowledge, awareness, and trust in the health system. Therefore, understanding the specific context and characteristics of each population is essential for designing effective strategies to promote organ donation<sup>(69)</sup>. The optimum approach for managing terminal illnesses is organ transplantation, which was first accomplished in December 1954 with a kidney transplant between identical twins. However, due to a low supply and a very high demand, there is a global scarcity of organs. The transplant waiting list now has 106,501 men, women, and children on it, and every nine minutes another person is added<sup>(70)</sup>. The activity of organ transplant programs has been continuously increasing, although it still falls short of worldwide demands and varies greatly between nations<sup>(71)</sup>. Organ transplant operations only began in the Middle East in the 1970s. The idea of harvesting organs from people that had died from cardiac arrest or brain death encountered strong criticism, as a result, transplantations were exclusively performed using living donors. Such transplantation techniques were used due to the moral quandaries that come with the process, as well as legal and societal difficulties and strict religious views. In Lebanon, the first kidney transplant using a living donor was performed in 1972. At that point, transplantation had become a more accepted idea in the country<sup>(70)</sup>. (Attitudes to organ donation in Lebanon: A cross-sectional survey) The willingness to donate an organ depends on one's knowledge of and attitudes regarding the practice. Fan et al., demonstrated that the general public's willingness to donate organs in China was found to be positively correlated with knowledge and attitudes. Where this willingness may increase as more people get familiar with the notions of brain death and the transplant process<sup>(72-74)</sup>. Table (1) indicated that the majority of the study

sample were aged (20-25) years old (46.4%), and more than half of them were male (57.0%), and most of the students in fourth stage (62.2%), while (77.0%) of them in morning study, and the majority of them were single (83.8), and the highest of the students living with family (80.8%). The study results indicated that the most of the study participants have a natural attitude regarding organ donation (205), (70.45%). While followed by those whose have good attitude (71), (24.39), and finally, (15), (5.16) of them have a negative attitude regarding organ donation. Table(3) indicated that there are direct association between nursing students' attitudes with their age, Marital status, and address, on the others hand there are invers association between their attitudes and students' gender, study stages, and types of study.

## Conclusion:

The study concluded that the study concluded that most students had neutral attitudes about organ donation While approximately a quarter of the sample had good attitudes about organ donation and the direct association between nursing students' attitudes with their age, Marital status, and address, on the others hand there are invers association between their attitudes and students' gender, study stages, and types of study. The study showed that female attitudes are more positive than males

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