



# Knowledge, Attitudes, and Behavior of Nigerian Students Toward Organ Donation

M. Ibrahim and G. Randhawa\*

Institute of Health Research, University of Bedfordshire, Putteridge Bury Campus, Luton, Bedfordshire, United Kingdom

---

## ABSTRACT

**Background.** The Nigerian transplantation program is evolving but is currently over-reliant on living donors. If deceased donation is to be viable in Nigeria, it is important to ascertain the views of the public. The objective of the study was to explore the knowledge, attitudes, and behavior of Nigerian international students toward organ donation.

**Methods.** A cross-sectional study was conducted among Nigerian international students of the University of Bedfordshire through the use of a modified self-administered questionnaire. The participants were recruited by means of purposive sampling.

**Results.** Of the 110 questionnaires distributed, 103 were returned fully completed (response rate = 93.6%). A significant majority (93.2%) of the participants are aware of organ donation, and 76.7% have a good knowledge on the subject. Furthermore, more than half (52.8%) of the participants have a positive attitude toward organ donation, and less than half (42.8%) have favorable behavior toward it. Higher knowledge does not correlate to either positive attitude or behavior, but a positive attitude is correlated with favorable behavior toward donation.

**Conclusions.** The attitudes and behavior of the respondents toward organ donation is not commensurate with the level of knowledge they possess. This highlights the urgent need for well-structured educational programs on deceased organ donation.

---

**G**LOBALLY, there is an imbalance between the number of individuals requiring organ transplantation and the available organs [1]. The benefit of organ transplantation is not only limited to the health of the patient but also to the economy, because it reduces the financial burden of treating end-stage organ failure such as the cost of dialysis for both the patient and the government [1].

Organ donation in Nigeria can be described as being in its early evolutionary state. The first renal transplant in Nigeria was carried out more than a decade ago [2], and more than 1002 kidneys were successfully transplanted in the 4 transplant centers available within the first 10 years of its inception [2]. This shows that Nigeria is gradually acquiring the expertise and resources for a transplantation program. The prevalence of end-stage renal disease is very high and is estimated as 300 to 400 per million persons [3]. More so, Nigeria has the third-highest number of patients on hemodialysis in sub-Saharan Africa [4]. The Nigerian transplantation program, affected by cultural sensitivity and only recent legislation on deceased donation, is currently

over-reliant on living organ donors [2,3]. Almost all the kidneys transplanted thus far in Nigeria are from living donors who are often related to the recipients [5].

If deceased donation is to become a reality in Nigeria, it is paramount to assess the knowledge, attitudes, and behavior that the populace have—especially students, who are not only a potential organ pool but are also more likely to promote its awareness and influence discussions about it among their families. To date, only 3 studies have been conducted in Nigeria to examine views toward organ donation. Therefore, the purpose of this study was to be the first to explore the knowledge, attitudes, and behavior among Nigerian students toward organ donation.

---

\*Address correspondence to Gurch Randhawa, Institute of Health Research, University of Bedfordshire, Putteridge Bury Campus, Luton, Bedfordshire, UK LU2 8LE. E-mail: [gurch.randhawa@beds.ac.uk](mailto:gurch.randhawa@beds.ac.uk)

## METHODS

### Study Population

The study population consisted of students of the University of Bedfordshire who identify themselves as Nigerian, are currently undertaking a full-time course (both undergraduate and post-graduate), and have not lived outside Nigeria for more than 3 years within the past 5 years.

### Study Questionnaire

This study used a self-administered, structured questionnaire to collect data from the participants. The questionnaire was developed through the use of questions derived from pre-existing, validated, and previously used tools, such as the Organ Donation Attitude Scale [6–8]. The Organ Donation Attitude Scale has a Cronbach  $\alpha$  value of 0.89 for the positive scale and 0.82 for the negative scale and therefore has adequate subscale reliability [6]. This was done to efficiently measure the knowledge, attitudes, and behavior of Nigerian international students. The questionnaire consists of 30 items divided into 4 parts, including both closed questions and Likert-type scales.

The first part (8 items) asks about the participant's socio-demographic characteristics such as age, sex, religion, and ethnicity. The second part has 6 items and was aimed to investigate general knowledge about organ donation and transplantation. This was achieved through the use of closed-ended questions with a response as either "yes" or "no." The third part was aimed to investigate attitudes toward organ donation, and it contained 12 items. Last, the fourth part contained 4 items, and it queried the behavior of the participants regarding organ donation. For both the third and fourth parts, a statement was used to establish factors and association, for example, "Organ donation is against my religion," "I will only donate my organ to a member of my family," and "I am willing to sign the donor card when it is available in Nigeria." Participants were requested to indicate their level of agreement to these statements on a 5-point Likert-type scale (strongly agree, agree, undecided, disagree, and strongly disagree).

The data for this study were collected between July and August of 2016. The total number of Nigerian students at University of Bedfordshire during the 2015/2016 session was 467. However, because of the lack of an accessible sampling frame, limited time, and budget for the study, a non-probability, purposive sampling technique was used. The study participants were approached in places such as the university library, post-graduate center, the Students' Union Lounge, university social learning area, and the Treehouse multi-faith prayer room.

### Ethical Approval

This study was reviewed and granted ethical approval by the Institute for Health Research Ethics Committee of the University of Bedfordshire. On distribution, the questionnaire was accompanied with both an information sheet (detailing the purpose of the study, reason for invitation, and a declaration of data anonymity) and an informed consent form, which they signed before proceeding to complete the questionnaire.

### Statistical Analysis

The data generated from the questionnaires were entered and analyzed with the use of Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) Version 22.0 [9]. Both descriptive and inferential statistics tests were used in the analysis. The descriptive analysis involved the running frequency and the percentage of tests of all the key

variables. Tests of associations were conducted by use of linear regression analysis and Spearman  $\rho$  correlation. Statistical tests were 2-sided, and a  $P$  value of  $<.05$  was considered as significant.

## RESULTS

In total, 110 questionnaires were distributed to individuals who fulfilled the inclusion criteria for this study. Of these, 105 questionnaires were completed and returned. However, on inspection of the returned questionnaires, 2 were found to be not fully completed and were therefore excluded from this analysis, giving a response rate of 93.6%. Therefore, all the analysis conducted was based on the 103 fully completed and returned questionnaires (Table 1).

### Participant Demographics

The majority (60%) of respondents were male as compared with 40% who were female. Similarly, the sample is relatively young and normally distributed, with approximately 61% of the respondents belonging to the 21- to 29-year age group. Furthermore, 25% of the respondents belonged to the Hausa ethnic group, making it the largest ethnic group of the respondents. Regarding religion, the majority (72%) of the respondents were Christians, and more than half of them (54%) described themselves as being quite religious. The participants were almost equally distributed among the faculties of Health and Social Sciences (34%), Creative Arts, Technologies and Arts, (31%) and Business School (33%). Finally, most of the participants were undertaking a postgraduate study (Masters, 64%; PhD, 8%), whereas undergraduates formed only 28% (Table 1).

### Knowledge and Awareness About Organ Donation

The majority of the respondents (76.7%) had good knowledge of organ donation, as shown in Fig 1.

A significant majority (93.2%) of the respondents were aware of organ donation, and television was the most popular source of their information, with nearly 70% of the respondents mentioning it as their primary source of information about organ donation (Fig 2). Other sources of information are shown in Fig 2.

Most participants (73%) were aware that organ transplantation is being conducted in Nigeria. However, the majority of participants neither knew a person who received a transplant (69%) nor an organ donor (78%) (Fig 3).

Furthermore, among the organs that have been successfully transplanted thus far, the kidney was the most known among the respondents, with 78% of respondents reporting to have heard about it (Fig 4). This was followed by heart transplantation, which was known by 21% of the respondents. On the contrary, the limbs, pancreas, and uterus were the least reported by the respondents, with only 5%, 3%, and 2%, respectively, of respondents knowing about them.

### Attitudes Toward Organ Donation

A significant majority (83%) of the respondents did not agree that their religion is against organ donation. Similarly,

Download English Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/en/article/5728614>

Download Persian Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/article/5728614>

[Daneshyari.com](https://daneshyari.com)