

Organ donation



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Running Head: ORGAN DONATION Organ Donation 2 July, Need for Organ Donation Organ donation is the act of donating a body organ or a biological tissue to a recipient, who needs the part to survive. This selfless act can save human lives, and allows the recipient to resume their lives. While more than 120, 000 people wait for a donor, there is a large gap between donors and recipients. The number of people willing to donate their organs is less than 1. 2 per million, and several cultural, mental, and physical barriers prevent people from donating their organs. People suffering from chronic illness, and those involved in accidents, need organs such as kidneys, liver, eyes, and other parts. Usually, the organs are taken from people who have died, or from brain dead patients. In other instances, close relatives, donate their body parts so that their loved ones can survive (Ebadat et al., 2014). In this speech, an argument is made about the positive nature of organ donation, and the need to educate people.

Support for organ donation comes from the chance that a dead person has to make a positive difference for the living. A person, who has died in an accident, can give a second chance to another person. Some diseases such as dialysis require expensive treatments, besides placing the patient through trauma and pain. Organ donation can help to remove such issues. The recipient can perhaps rest more easily, if he knows that the organs will be donated to another person. The donor and his family can find comfort in knowing that though their loved one has passed away, the death is not in vain (Brown et al., 2010).

Organ donation requires consent from the donors, either through explicit consent or through presumed consent. Explicit consent is a written and signed consent, given by person or close surviving relatives, allowing the

organs to be donated. Presumed consent is controversial and it assumes that a dead person would be willing to donate the organs. Healthy humans have two kidneys, and it is possible to lead a normal life even with a single kidney. However, many people are averse to this concept, and they refuse to sign any documents giving explicit consent, and on their death, relatives refuse permission to let the organs to be harvested. There is the fear that the organs would be used by criminals, and by people from other religious and ethnic backgrounds (Moraes et al., 2009).

The practice of organ donation has unfortunately become embroiled in controversies through the illegal sale of body parts. Poor people are often enticed with money to donate their organs, and some hospitals, harvest the body parts of accident victims, without informing the relatives of the victims. In other cases, doctors attempt to hasten the death of brain dead patients, to recover and sell the organs. While such incidents are deplorable, the practice of organ donation must be reinforced with public guidance and messages (Stein, 2007). Such reports create fear among patients.

To sum up the arguments, the practice of organ donation is selfless, and one of the greatest acts of service that a person can do. The poor rate of organ donation is rooted in bias, prejudice, and a callous attitude of the close relatives, who refuse to allow the body parts to be removed and used to save lives. The fact that the dead person has no further use of the parts is of no consequence to them. Healthcare authorities must create greater awareness and highlight the need to make people give their consent for organ donation.

References

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