Sparse goods: Justice, Equity and Organ Donation – a right or a wish?

Dear Editor,

This is to confirm that the article entitled “Sparse goods: Justice, Equity and Organ Donation – a right or a wish?” submitted to the *Indian Journal of Medical Ethics* is original and has been co-authored by the undersigned. All authors have participated in the work sufficiently to meet the ICMJE guidelines for authorship. All have read and approved the manuscript.

The submission is not under consideration for publication in any other journal.

We give consent to Annie Singh to act as the author for correspondence.

Further, there is no conflict of interest and no funding used.

We have read the terms and conditions of authorship of IJME and accept them.

Contact details –

Annie Singh – Corresponding author

House no. 820

Phase 3B1

Mohali

Email – [anniesingh820@gmail.com](mailto:anniesingh820@gmail.com)

Mannat Kaur Bhatia-

House no. 74-A

Shastri Nagar

Ludhiana

Email - [mannatbhatia37@gmail.com](mailto:mannatbhatia37@gmail.com)

Ripudaman Singh –

House no. 821/5

Deep Nagar

Civil Lines

Ludhiana

Email - [ripudamansingh128@yahoo.com](mailto:ripudamansingh128@yahoo.com)

Jayksh Chhabra –

Hose no. 350, Street no.3

Vijay Nagar

Patiala

Email – [jayksh15496@gmail.com](mailto:jayksh15496@gmail.com)

We have read the article entitled “Ethics of organ transplantation by Sanjay Nagral and  J Amalorpavanathan” (Ethics of organ transplantation. Indian Journal of Medical Ethics, [S.l.], v. 3, n. 2, p. 19, nov. 2016 )

We would like to congratulate the authors for the success of their article, and also make some contributions.

In the article, the authors mentioned that “If we wish to improve upon the current situation, the first step is total transparency on the part of the medical profession and open, public, debate on this and related issues. Medical professionals must set ethical guidelines and take action against violators. Representatives of the common people must be included on the committees that will oversee these operations.” Our primary interest regarding organ donation is to ensure that the process fulfils the ideals of the medical profession: integrity, honesty and truthfulness in practice and communications with patients and families (1) Thus, in order to do so we would like to suggest that to increase such transparency we can do the following –

We can have an additional organ donation form for voluntary registration at places like driving licence registration office, Aadhar card registration office, government and private banks, passport office, OPD/IPD in hospitals, etc. A counselor is appointed at all these facilities along with Suvidha centre assistants and employees to be trained with a short audio-visual course. These places are installed with advertisements and easy step guides. Volunteers can be trained and appointed as well. All this will help answer the queries of the people regarding organ donation and also help increase awareness.

A health insurance scheme exclusively for the organ donors which includes:

A comprehensive health care system for all organ donors who pledge under the card.

An organ donor when becomes a recipient (if required) comes under a government sponsored scheme which covers the cost of organ screening, hospitalization charges, for rectifying complications during surgery and pharmaceutical expenses. This will lead to increased motivation for organ donation. By outlining the experiences of people before and after transplantation, the need for and benefits of organ donation are highlighted in a way that relates to a specific individual and encourages empathy (2)

Thus we suggest, a tracking system for the organs being pledged and donated in the form of an app which has a database of all potential donors and their basic details. This app includes -

Donor gets notified when an organ is successfully transplanted

Success stories of the recipients can be uploaded.

FAQs in the form of videos can be asked.

Donor e-card available for printing and to carry along.

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