

Title: Public knowledge and attitudes toward organ donation

ABSTRACT

The objectives of the study are to determine the extent of the public knowledge on brain death and organ donation and barriers of organ donation. It also evaluates the effectiveness of the promotion methods and people's attitudes toward different kinds of law of organ donation. The survey was conducted in March 1999 in one adult learning centre and four offices of different location. Convenience sampling was used and 122 people had been selected for the study. Results showed that around 50% of the people had never heard of brain death. People with higher score in the knowledge test tend to be more willing to donate organ. 71% of the participants favoured organ donation. The traditional belief that the body should be kept intact after death and the outlook would be changed after organ donation was still prevailing among those who refused to donate organ. Altruism is the main reason for organ donation but only 36% of the supporters had signed an organ donation card. Do not know where to get a card is the main reason of not signing a card. Television is the most influential means of promotion. Organ donation cards gained much support from public as a means to increase donation rate. The establishment of more easy assessable card distribution centres are very important. Moreover the development of another registration system is a promising way to overcome all the problems of the existing system.