AWARENESS, WILLINGNESS AND FACTORS INFLUENCING ORGAN DONATION AMONG MALAYSIANS WITH SECONDARY OR HIGHER LEVEL OF EDUCATION: A NATIONAL ONLINE SURVEY

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Globally, the demand for organs exceeds the supply of organs and Malaysia has one of the lowest deceased organ donation rates in the world, with 0.48 deceased organ donations per million populations in 2010, and live kidney transplantation rate of 0.93 per million population.
• Some studies in Malaysia have suggested the possibility of religious and cultural factors as the main impediment to organ donation in Malaysia.

• Not much studies have been done to determine the level of awareness and the reasons for non-willingness among those with secondary or higher level of education on a national level.
OBJECTIVE

To determine the level of knowledge about organ donation, willingness to donate their organs upon death and reasons for not donating among adult Malaysians who were having secondary or higher level of education using an online survey on a national level.
MATERIALS AND METHODS

• **Study Design** - Cross-sectional online survey

• **Period of study** - 2 weeks from 24 December 2014 to 7 January 2015 using Google form survey in either Malay or English languages which were made available through various online channels.

• **Study participants** - All the students and staff of all Uni-KL institutions, various Facebook and Linkedin groups of educational institutions in Malaysia.

• **Inclusion criteria** - Malaysian adults with secondary or higher level of education.
• **Method of survey** – Survey was promoted through UniKL e-LMS page, various health related pages in Facebook and Linkedin.

• **Sample size** - Minimum required sample size was calculated assuming that 35.2% of adults will be having good awareness level and willingness to donate organs with an absolute precision of 5% for a 95% confidence interval as 350. The total sample of this research was 521.

• **Questionnaire was validated using face validity, content validity and criterion validity.** Test of reliability was done before administration using Cronbach’s alpha.

• **Data was analysed by Chi square test, T test and ANOVA using STATA.**
RESULTS

• A total of 521 adult Malaysians participated in this study. Most of the participants were females (51.6%), Chinese ethnic origin (55.7%) and those with degree or higher level of education (81%).

• The overall knowledge level about organ donation was around 60%.

• It was found that 70.4% of respondents were willing to be an organ donor and 20.6% had already registered to donate their organs after death.
The mean knowledge among the respondents was significantly influenced by the respondent being in a health care-related field of study or career; registration status as organ donor, and overall willingness to donate or accept organs from a person of different race or religion.

Registration status had a significant association with race, religion, state of residence, health care-related field of study or career, willingness to give consent for family members to be an organ donor and willingness to accept organs from other race and religion.

Registration status was significantly higher among Indian race, Christians and those who were from Selangor / Kuala Lumpur and field of study or career related to health care.
• Almost 71% of those who registered as organ donor, expressed that they will give consent for their family member to be an organ donor.

• Around 93% and 95% of participants were willing to donate their organs to those belonging to another religion or race respectively and it was significantly higher among those who were already registered to be an organ donor.

• Almost 90.4% and 95% of participants were willing to accept organs from those belonging to another religion or race respectively and it was significantly higher among those who were already registered.
CONCLUSIONS

• Lack of awareness was the major reason for reduced registration rate for organ donation among Malaysian adults with secondary or higher levels of educations.

• The effect of religion or race was not a significant factor affecting the willingness for organ donation.

• More awareness through new and more innovative methods of deliveries should be considered.
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