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**Knowledge and attitude on organ donation and cadaveric donation among undergraduate students of selected faculties of University of Sri Jayewardenepura**

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**Background:** Donation of medically suitable organs would save thousands of lives. Gap between supply and demand is mainly due to lack of knowledge.

**Objective:** To describe the knowledge and attitudes on organ and cadaveric donation, among undergraduate students of selected faculties of University of Sri Jayewardenepura.

**Method:** A descriptive cross-sectional study was conducted among 319 undergraduate students from three selected faculties; Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce (n=138), Applied Sciences (n=108), and Humanities and Social Sciences (n=73). A pre-tested online questionnaire was used for data collection. The median was taken as the cutoff value to determine good or poor knowledge. The attitude was assessed using a Likert scale. Chi square test was used to assess associated factors and p value  $\leq 0.05$  was taken as significant.

**Results:** The majority of the participants were females (63.2%) and Buddhists (58.9%), and was from Western Province (49.2%). The mean age was  $22.76 \pm 1.4$  years. Knowledge on organ donation was poor (39.8%). Regarding cadaveric donation, 81.5% knew that they had to register prior to donation. The majority of students had a positive attitude towards organ donation but a negative attitude towards cadaveric donation. Females (52%) had more knowledge on organ donation than males (p=0.001). Knowledge on organ donation was high in residents of Western Province (p=0.004), while knowledge on cadaveric donation was high in other Provinces (p=0.019) with a statistically significant difference. A higher percentage of those with positive attitude towards organ and cadaveric donation were females (p=0.009), Buddhists (p=0.002), and residing in Western Province (p=0.001). Presence of a chronic illness such as asthma was associated with having negative attitudes towards organ donation (p=0.047).

**Conclusion:** Knowledge on organ donation was poor, whereas it was good on cadaveric donation. Attitudes towards organ donation were positive, in contrast to cadaveric donation which was negative.