

# Time to Act Now: Organ Donation and our Responsibilities

Ayaz Abbasi

## Address of Correspondent

Professor Ayaz Abbasi  
Consultant in Emergency Medicine at Wrightington,  
Wigan and Leigh teaching hospitals foundation Trust  
aaabbasi38@hotmail.com

**Cite this editorial as:** Abbasi A. Time to Act Now Organ Donation and our Responsibilities. *Ann Pak Inst Med Sci.* 2021; 17(4): 277. Doi. 10.48036/apims.v17i4.611

*The holy prophet (PBUH) stated:*

*"Whoever helps a brother in difficulty, God will help him through his difficulties on the Day of Judgment."*

A report from Sindh institute of urology and transplantation (SIUT) revealed that 75% of transplantation in 1991 was living related in contrast to 80% non-related renal transplants in 2003, majority of these performed on foreigners.<sup>1</sup>

According to WHO up to 10% of the 63,000 kidney transplants that occur annually throughout the world involve donors from developing countries who are unrelated to the recipients.<sup>2</sup> Patients from western world travel to subcontinent or far east in search of poor donors who are willing to give their kidney for financial compensation. On an average the recipients pay around \$ 40,000 while the non-related donor is paid \$1500. This is huge business, which is not ethical and poor donors gets a small fraction of amount paid by desperate patients who receive these organs.<sup>3</sup>

The definition of a donation in the UK stands as persons exercising their free choice to offer their organs as gifts, evoking a spirit of generosity. Here, the gift hypothesis can be given legal precedence under the property doctrine. The notion is defined by 'the act by which the owner of a thing voluntarily transfers the title and possession of the same from himself to another person with consideration'.<sup>4</sup> The idea of donation being viewed as gift-giving emphasizes this as a voluntary process.

Its time in Pakistan to act now. We need media campaigns, pressure groups, lobbyist, and lawmakers to get together and educate people in this respect. Conferences and seminars should be conducted to at least start this debate and make laws and implement strictly on these unethical practices. Islamic scholars should help Government to build a momentum for organ donation. We need a national donor registry, and it should be in every Pakistani national ID card whether he or she is a donor. It is a long journey but time to act is now. Our future generations deserve a better and ethical healthcare.

## References

1. Pakistan: Government mulls new law on illegal kidney sales. IRIN: Humanitarian news and analysis. 2007 September 5.
2. Editorial: Humayun A. To sell or not to sell an organ. Dawn. 2007 August 30. <https://www.dawn.com/news/1070426>
3. Garwood P. Dilemma over live donor transplantation. Bulletin of the World Health Organization: 2007;85: 5-6
4. Alexander K Glazier, "The principles of gift law and the regulation of organ donation. Transplant International.2011; 24(4): 368-372.