

COMPLETION REPORT

A Comparative Study between Japan and Malaysia : Attitude and Willingness to Donate Organs

Jo Ann Ho(+2)
Associate Professor
Department of Management and Marketing
Faculty of Economics and Management
Universiti Putra Malaysia

We conducted a study to compare organ donation intention between Japanese and Malaysian students and the main data collection method were questionnaires. The respondents were university undergraduate students aged 25 years and below. In Malaysia, we distributed 350 questionnaires to two universities and obtained 306 usable questionnaires. An interview was conducted with the National Resource Transplant Centre. In Japan, we distributed 300 questionnaires to four universities and another 156 were sent online. We obtained a total of 244 responses but only 234 proved usable for our analysis.

Results of the Study:

RQ1: Does attitude towards posthumous organ donation lead to willingness to donate among Japanese and Malaysian students?

There was an insignificant relationship between attitude and willingness to donate organs among the Japanese students. However, the result was significant for the Malaysian sample. Our results show that although the Japanese students may have a positive attitude toward organ donation, this positive attitude will not influence their intentions to donate. However, in Malaysia, the attitude of the students did significantly influence their intention to donate, indicating a positive attitude would definitely increase their intention to donate. For the Japanese sample, moral norms (i.e. an individual's perception that organ donation is the right thing to do) and perceived behavioural control (i.e. an individual's belief that they have the ability to control and are able to donate their organs) were significant predictors of their willingness to donate organs.

RQ2: Does social norms influence willingness to donate?

Social norms appeared insignificant for both countries. This result was surprising for the Malaysian society, as it is considered to be a collectivist society. However, the results appeared consistent for the Japanese sample as studies have shown Japan to be a more individualistic society. Young adults in Japan and Malaysia appeared to be more independent in deciding whether to donate their organs after death, and not pressured by others or society norms to donate their organs.

RQ3: Does willingness to donate lead to willingness to communicate with family?

The association between willingness to donate, willingness to sign a donor card and willingness to communicate with the family was significant in both countries. Thus, those who were willing to donate were also willing to communicate their decisions to their families. This is seen as a positive step and can increase the chances of organs being actually donated after the donor passes on since communication with family was found to be an important aspect for successful organ donation after death.

RQ4: What are the current strategies used by the Japan Organ Transplant Network (JOTN) to encourage organ donations among Japanese?

JOTN focuses on increasing the knowledge of the Japanese society towards organ donation. They work with various parties including doctors and schools to increase the awareness of organ donation.

Publication of the Results of Research Project:

Verbal Presentation (Date, Venue, Name of Conference, Title of Presentation, Presenter, etc.)

4th International On-Line Conference on Recent Advancement in Interdisciplinary Research (ICRAIR) 2020 held from 8-9 May 2020. Presenter: Ho Jo Ann (please refer attached certificate of presentation)

Thesis (Name of Journal and its Date, Title and Author of Thesis, etc.)

Asian Journal of Social Science

Authors: Jo Ann Ho, Soniya Umair, Umair Waqas and Lin Woon Leong

We also plan to submit another article to a journal which is yet to be identified. This article will be based on the interviews that we conducted between TRIO, JOTN, National Resource Transplant Centre, Malaysia and Dr Egawa. This manuscript is in the midst of being written.

Book (Publisher and Date of the Book, Title and Author of the Book, etc.)