



Rtn LAL GOEL SPEECH IN GLOBAL GREEN PARLIAMENT HELD AT RAJ BHAVAN

As per Albert Einstein, "I cannot conceive of a genuine scientist without that profound faith. The situation may be expressed by an image: science without religion is lame, religion without science is blind."

ORGAN DONATION

Organ Donation is a genuine act of love. The commitment of one person to give the gift of life to another person mirrors an essential foundation upon which the teachings of science and faith stand.

The field of Organ transplantation has advanced significantly over the years.

Modern medical science has made it possible to transplant vital Organs like the Heart, Lungs, Liver, Pancreas, Intestines and Kidneys from one person to another, thus saving the recipient's life. These intricate surgeries involve skilled surgeons, skilled technicians, qualified experienced nurses, ultramodern infrastructure and the latest medicines making Organ transplantation a remarkable achievement of science.

Organ Donation is an issue which is globally influenced by both scientific and religious perspectives.

From a scientific standpoint, Organ Donation can save lives and improve the quality of life for recipients. Advances in medical technology have made Organ transplantation a viable solution for various Organ failures. However, when it comes to faith and religion, beliefs and practices vary widely. Some religious groups and individuals may have concerns about Organ Donation due to cultural or religious beliefs. It's essential to respect these beliefs and engage in open and respectful dialogue to address any misconceptions or fears.

The intersection of science and faith in Organ Donation can give rise to ethical dilemmas. For instance, how does one navigate the religious convictions of a potential donor or recipient when their beliefs clash with

the medical necessity of a transplant?

Ethical discussions often help find common ground and foster understanding between the two worlds. Many religious leaders and organizations support Organ Donation and view it as a compassionate act that aligns with the principles of altruism and saving lives. Some faith-based organizations actively promote and facilitate Organ Donation awareness.

When someone we know dies, it can call attention to the importance of the spiritual dimension of life.

When faced with the decision of Organ and Tissue Donation during the trauma of a loved one's death, a person's religion suddenly becomes very important.

As the decision is being made, the question often arises, "What is my religion's stance on Organ and Tissue Donation?"

Most people are not aware of their religious group's doctrine or position regarding Organ and Tissue Donation.

To encourage Organ Donation, it's important to bridge the gap between science and faith by raising awareness, providing education, and engaging with religious & spiritual leaders and communities to create a better understanding of the benefits and moral considerations surrounding Organ transplantation.

This can help overcome barriers and increase Organ Donation rates in the world.

Organ Donation is a topic that seamlessly weaves through the realms of science and faith.

SCIENCE

From a scientific perspective, Organ Donation is rooted in ethics and medical ethics.

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While the medical and scientific aspects of Organ transplantation are well-documented, the ethical and religious dimensions bring unique perspectives to this life-saving practice.

Buddhists believe that Organ and Tissue donation is a matter of individual conscience, and they place high value on acts of compassion. They honour those people who Donate their Organs for saving lives.

Roman Catholics view Organ and Tissue Donation as an act of charity and love. The Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services, a set of principles that guide the healing mission of the Church, clearly explains the permissibility of Organ Donations.

Hindu mythology has stories in which the parts of the human body are used for the benefit of other humans and society. There is nothing in the Hindu religion indicating that parts of humans, dead or alive, cannot be used to alleviate the suffering of other humans.

Life after death is a strong belief of Hindus and is an ongoing process of rebirth. The law of Karma decides which way the soul will go in the next life.

The Bhagavad Gita describes the mortal body and the immortal soul simply like the relationship of clothes to a body:

"Vasamsi jirnani yatha vihayana vani grhnati nara
'paranitatha sarirani vihayam jirnanyanyani samyati navandi
dehi."

As a person puts on new garments giving up the old ones the soul similarly accepts new material bodies giving up the old and useless ones."— Bhagavad Gita chapter 2:22.*

One of the basic aims of the Muslim faith is the saving of life: This is a fundamental aim of the Shariah and

muslims believe that Allah greatly rewards those who save others from death.

Muslim scholars of the most prestigious academies are unanimous in declaring that Organ Donation is an act of merit and in certain circumstances can be an obligation.

The Sikh philosophy and teachings place great emphasis on the importance of giving and putting others before oneself.

"Where self exists, there is no God. Where God exists, there is no self."—Guru Nanak, Guru Granth Sahib
The Sikh faith stresses the importance of performing noble deeds.

There are many examples of selfless giving and sacrifice in Sikh teachings by the 10 Gurus and other Sikhs.

"The true servants of God are those who serve Him through helping others" Guru Nanak, Guru Granth Sahib.

Sikhs believe life after death is a continuous cycle of rebirth but the physical body is not needed in this cycle—a person's soul is [the] real essence.

CONCLUSIONS

Organ donation is a unique arena where science and faith meet.

While the scientific community continues to advance the field of transplantation, religious perspectives offer moral and ethical considerations that guide this practice.

Bridging the gap between these two worlds requires open dialogue, ethical deliberation, and respect for diverse beliefs.

Ultimately, it is the harmonious coexistence of science and faith that allows Organ transplantation to be a beacon of hope and a testament to the potential for human cooperation and compassion.



LAL GOEL

About the Author

Rtn Lal Goel is the Founder & Charter President of the Rotary Club of Organ Donation International and Chairman of Organ Donation India Foundation & GYAN. He is on the National Committee of the NATIONAL CAMPAIGN FOR BODY-ORGANS DONATION(NCBOD). He has created a transformation in Organ Donation Awareness in India and has travelled across the country and overseas to involve leaders from various areas in Organ Donation Awareness Campaign. Rtn Lal Goel has won many awards including the prestigious Rajiv Gandhi Businessman of the Year Award, India Darshan National Integration Award 2019, HARPS Award, Icons of India Award, Life's Real Hero of India Award and WORLD PARLIAMENT INTERNATIONAL AWARD 2023 amongst others. Rtn Lal Goel was honoured by Mangalore University for his Unique Contribution to Society and Organ Donation. Rtn Lal Goel was also honoured with the Prestigious Tyag Murti Mata Ramai Ambedkar Samman. Rtn Lal Goel was honoured with the White Coat Ceremony in New Jersey, USA by Donate Life.