

**UNITE
FOR
GOOD**

Rotary
Club of
**ORGAN DONATION
INTERNATIONAL**



**LET'S
INSPIRE !**

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NEW STEP

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Rotary
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**ORGAN DONATION
INTERNATIONAL**

**LET'S
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ROTARY CLUB OF ORGAN DONATION INTERNATIONAL

ORGAN DONATION: SUPREME DONATION



Rtn Lal Goel
Founder & Charter President
Rotary Club of
Organ Donation International



Rtn PHF Ritika Gupta
Inspire President
Rotary Club of
Organ Donation International



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Journalist, Creative Writer
& Script Writer
Kidney Donor
Kolkata



Rtn Ruby Agarwal
Inspire Secretary



Rtn Regina Gupta
Hon. Member

Time & Date: 8 PM on Sunday 13th July 2025

Watch live on <https://www.youtube.com/@gyan8932>

**AS YOU GROW OLDER, YOU WILL DISCOVER THAT YOU HAVE TWO HANDS,
ONE FOR HELPING YOURSELF, THE OTHER FOR HELPING OTHERS.**

DONATE ORGANS

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PUBLISHED ON BEHALF OF INSPIRE PRESIDENT RTN PHF RITIKA GUPTA
BY INSPIRE SECRETARY RTN RUBY AGARWAL FOR ROTARY CLUB OF
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FROM THE DESK OF CHIEF MANAGING EDITOR



Dear Fellow Rotarians and Esteemed Members,

As I pen these words today, my heart is heavy with the profound loss of our beloved Rtn Girdhari Agrawal, who passed away after a courageous battle with lung cancer. Diagnosed only in March of this year, his swift departure has left an irreplaceable void in our Rotary family and my personal life, having shared a friendship spanning over 65 years. When Rtn Adv Ramesh Sharma and I visited him at his residence in May, we never imagined it would be our final meeting. His legacy of service and dedication to our cause will forever inspire us. May his soul rest in eternal peace.

In this issue, we are privileged to feature the insightful article “The Role of Classroom Education on Awareness of Organ Donation in India” by our esteemed Non-Medical Director, Rtn Prof Dr Lakshmi Goel. Her comprehensive analysis addresses one of our most pressing challenges—educating the younger generation about organ donation. The solutions she presents, if implemented in educational institutions, have the potential to elevate awareness levels across our nation significantly.

This publication represents a genuine “New Step” in organ donation advocacy. Our unwavering commitment is to foster global awareness through this weekly bulletin, creating ripples of change that extend far beyond our immediate community. Each issue serves as a beacon of hope for countless individuals awaiting the gift of life.

I extend a heartfelt invitation to all our members to contribute articles related to organ donation. Your experiences, insights, and research are invaluable assets that strengthen our collective mission. Together, we can create a comprehensive resource that educates, inspires, and transforms lives.

This week’s spotlight on our members features our dynamic Inspire Secretary, whose dedication exemplifies the spirit of service that defines our organisation.

As we continue our noble mission, let us remember that every article we publish, every awareness program we conduct, and every conversation we initiate about organ donation brings us closer to saving precious lives. Our work transcends the boundaries of individual achievement—it represents hope for families, second chances for patients, and the ultimate expression of human compassion.

I WANT TO BE REMEMBERED FOR THE LIFE I GAVE AS WELL AS THE LIFE I LIVED

Yours in Rotary Service,

IPP Rtn Lal Goel
Chief Managing Editor
Founder & Charter President
Rotary Club of Organ Donation International

THE ROLE OF CLASSROOM EDUCATION ON AWARENESS OF ORGAN DONATION IN INDIA

- Rotarian Prof Dr Lakshmi Goel

India is a country of over 1.4 billion people, where the gap between the need for organ transplants and the number of available organs is staggering. Despite increasing awareness of health-related issues in recent years, organ donation remains a topic that is not widely understood or openly discussed in many parts of the country. As a result, people continue to struggle with the lack of knowledge regarding the life-saving impact of organ donation. In this context, classroom education plays a critical role in creating awareness about organ donation and encouraging its acceptance. This article explores the significance of classroom education in raising awareness about organ donation in India, examining its potential impact on students, teachers, and the community. The goal is to understand how integrating education about organ donation into school curricula can address misconceptions, foster a culture of donation, and contribute to saving countless lives.

The Current Organ Donation Scenario in India

Organ donation remains one of the few ways in which one human being can save the life, or significantly improve the quality of life, of another. India faces a severe shortage of organ donors. According to statistics from 2024, the National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organization (NOTTO) estimates that in India organ donation is less than one donor per million population. This contrasts sharply with other nations, such as Spain, where the organ donation rate is 52.6 organ donors per million population.

The primary reasons for this discrepancy are rooted in cultural beliefs, lack of awareness, and misconceptions about organ donation.

Many people in India are unaware of the critical shortage of organs and the benefits of organ donation. Furthermore, some hold misconceptions about the process, fearing that their organs will be removed prematurely, or that organ donation goes against religious or spiritual beliefs. In some cases, families are not aware of how to register as organ donors or may have simply never considered organ donation as an option. The lack of awareness and understanding of the concept contributes to the perpetuation of these myths.

The Impact of Classroom Education on Society

The implications of classroom education on organ donation are far-reaching. Educating young people about the importance of organ donation can lead to an increase in the number of individuals willing to register as donors and potentially even save lives. By instilling these values in the next generation, India could move toward a future where organ donation becomes a more widely accepted and normalized practice.

Furthermore, classroom education serves as a tool for social change, as it provides the knowledge and skills needed to address issues related to health and social justice. Students who are educated about organ donation can become advocates for the cause, lobbying for improved policies, better infrastructure for organ transplants, and wider public awareness campaigns. These advocates can play a significant role in shaping public opinion and influencing government policies, thereby contributing to the overall improvement of the organ donation system in India.

Classroom education has long been recognized as one of the most effective ways to instill knowledge and values in young people. By incorporating organ donation awareness into school curricula, students can be educated about the significance of organ donation, the process involved, and how it can save lives. Education serves as the foundation for dispelling myths and building a generation of informed citizens who understand the importance of contributing to society in this life-saving way.

1. Creating Awareness Early in Life

Introducing organ donation education in the classroom, particularly in middle and high schools, can provide students with the knowledge they need to make informed decisions as they grow older. Early education can help eliminate misunderstandings and provide accurate, up-to-date information about the science behind organ donation. Furthermore, discussing organ donation at an early stage ensures that students grow up with the notion that donating organs is a normal and beneficial act.

In addition to spreading awareness, classroom education encourages a sense of social responsibility. By learning about the lives that can be saved through organ donation, students may develop an empathetic attitude toward the importance of helping others. This approach cultivates the values of altruism, community service, and social justice in young minds, empowering them to make a difference in the lives of others.

2. Challenging Cultural Myths and Misconceptions

One of the primary obstacles to organ donation in India is the presence of deep-rooted cultural myths and misconceptions. These misconceptions often arise from a lack of awareness and incorrect information being passed down from generation to generation. Some people believe that organ donation is prohibited by their religion, while others fear that the procedure will be harmful or disrespectful to the body.

Through classroom education, these myths can be systematically debunked. Teachers, in collaboration with medical professionals and guest speakers, can clarify doubts and explain that organ donation is not only legal but also a charitable act supported by all major religions in India, including Hinduism, Islam, Christianity, and Sikhism. By addressing these concerns scientifically and respectfully, schools can challenge the stigma surrounding organ donation and encourage students to talk openly about it.

3. Situated and Social Learning

Learning in the classroom plays a vital role in shaping students' perspectives on various social issues, including organ donation. Additionally, peer influence is another powerful tool that has been shown to impact learning during developmental phases. Thus, situated and social learning can help spread awareness. Students who have learned about organ donation in the classroom may, in turn, educate their families and friends. This creates a ripple effect that extends beyond the classroom and into the broader community. Since young people are often highly influential within their families, this grassroots approach could lead to increased organ donor registrations and a shift in attitudes toward organ donation across generations.

3 ways to promote organ donation awareness :

1. Train the trainer

When teachers are trained and equipped with the knowledge to discuss organ donation effectively, they can serve as credible sources of information for students. This empowers teachers to facilitate open discussions, answer questions, and clarify misconceptions about the process. Teachers can serve as change agents to integrate organ donation into existing curricula of courses such as biology, civics or health economics.

2. Hosting awareness “days” or events

Besides incorporating organ donation awareness into the regular curriculum, schools may dedicate a specific event or a day to causes such as organ donation. These events help punctuate the learning experience and improve retention of the content while highlighting its importance. Besides pedagogical content, the events can be gamified, with opportunities for interactive experiences so that the learners have positive associations with the experience.

3. Collaborations with other institutions

To ensure that classroom education on organ donation is impactful and credible, schools can collaborate with healthcare institutions, transplant organizations, and medical professionals. Hospitals can provide educational resources, hold interactive workshops, or invite organ transplant recipients and donors to share their stories with students. These real-life testimonials can make the topic more relatable and engaging, helping students see the human side of organ donation.

Partnering with organizations like the Rotary Club of Organ Donation International can help integrate current data, research, and success stories into school curricula. Such collaborations can create a more comprehensive and authoritative educational experience for students, further enhancing their understanding and acceptance of organ donation.

Conclusion

Classroom education plays a pivotal role in raising awareness about organ donation in India. By addressing cultural myths, providing accurate information, and fostering a sense of social responsibility, schools can empower students to make informed decisions about organ donation. The knowledge gained in the classroom can spread through families and communities, creating a more informed and accepting society. Ultimately, the integration of organ donation education into school curricula is a crucial step toward closing the gap between the need for organs and their availability, offering hope to thousands of people waiting for life-saving transplants.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Rotarian Prof Dr Lakshmi Goel brings 20+ years of experience in higher education and business consulting, specializing in enterprise strategy and business analytics. She holds an MS in Computer Science and PhD in Decision and Information Sciences from the University of Houston.

Currently Professor of Information Systems and Dean of the School of Business Administration at Al Akhawayn University in Morocco, she previously served as Associate Dean, endowed Chair for Strategy, Department Chair, and MBA Director at the University of North Florida.

As lead partner of iPrepSmart, she provides executive coaching and consulting across healthcare, energy, logistics, and higher education sectors, with proven success coaching C-Suite executives and high potentials.

Rtn Prof Dr Goel serves as Non-Medical Director of Rotary Club of Organ Donation International.





Rtn Girdhari Agarwal (1954-2025)

IN LOVING MEMORY OF RTN GIRDHARI AGARWAL

With heavy hearts, we mourn the loss of our beloved Rtn Girdhari Agarwal, a Charter Member of the Rotary Club of Organ Donation International. His passing leaves an irreplaceable void in our Rotary family and in the hearts of all who knew him.

From our club's inception, Rtn Girdhari Agarwal stood as a beacon of service above self. His active participation and willingness to serve made him an inspiration to fellow Rotarians and a driving force behind our mission to promote organ donation awareness. His legacy of service, compassion, and cheerful spirit will continue to guide us in our endeavours.

The laughter he brought to our gatherings, the wisdom he shared in our discussions, and the dedication he showed in our projects will be cherished memories that we will carry forward. His life was a testament to the Rotary ideals of fellowship, service, and making a positive difference in the world.

As we bid farewell to our dear friend and fellow Rotarian, we take comfort in knowing that his spirit of service and the joy he brought to our lives will live on through the countless lives he touched and the causes he championed.

Our thoughts and prayers are with his family during this difficult time. May they find strength in knowing that Rtn Girdhari Agarwal's legacy of kindness, service, and fellowship will continue to inspire generations of Rotarians.

Rest in peace, dear Rtn Girdhari Agarwal. Your service to humanity and your friendship will never be forgotten.

NEW STEP



Rtn Ruby Agarwal
Inspire Secretary

Name: Ruby Agarwal

Mobile: 9148067175

E-mail: agarwal.ruby@gmail.com

Profession: Business cum Professional

Favourite Food: Indian

Favourite Holiday Destination: Switzerland

Favourite Book: All nature-related & motivational books

Favourite Song: Aye Maalik tere bande hum

Favourite Quote: Nature's treasure: save our trees

Hobbies: Travelling, Gardening

Date of Birth: 13/08

Social media: Active on FB & Instagram professionally in the name of "**Nature and Flower Lovers**"

Why did you choose to become a member of RC Organ Donation International - I joined RC Organ Donation International after understanding the critical need for organ donors and the unfortunate loss of lives due to lack of awareness and resources. My heart goes out to patients waiting for organ transplants. I aim to support the mission of creating awareness, dispelling myths, and overcoming obstacles related to organ donation through our club.



**SCAN
ME
FOR
QUICK
PLEDGE**

**(Pledge your Organs to donate only
after talking to your family members)**