

Persuasive Speech on Organ Donation

Organ donation refers to a situation whereby a person allows the removal of an organ from his body so that it can be given to someone else. Although most organs for donation have been from dead people, living persons can also give some of their organs. Apart from organs, it is also possible to give out blood, platelets and stem cells. Nevertheless, not everybody can be a giver of organs. People living with HIV Aids, brain cancer and critical current infection may not give their organs to other people. Moreover, ethical, moral and social issues surround organ donations.

To start with, the moral culture surrounding a group of people decide organ donation. This is because some people may not be willing to give their peers a gift of life, that is, they may not be willing to donate their organs to others whose lives may depend on them. Consequently, there may be essential to establish a moral dialogue in order to satisfy such people to change their minds (Etzioni 86). This is a difficult job that requires the participation of opinion makers, such as the clergy, media personalities and elected leaders, among others.

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Secondly, current laws are not sufficiently clear on a person's responsibility on donating an organ. More often than not, medical officers have to contend with the bereaved. The bereaved are often weighed down by pain to make any rational decision. This is just so because medical personnel have to collect the organ soon after death. Moreover, medical officials always hesitate

to obtain authorization to take out the organs during this period of grief. The implication is that organ harvesters have to rely on the consent of the bereaved rather than the donor.

Medical officials are also reluctant to pick organs from deceased donors without the consent of family members due to the likelihood of negative publicity. This would happen if the grieving parents report to the media about the unfortunate treatment of their departed one. Current law, therefore, limits medical practitioners to the consent of family members rather than the actual donor of the organs. This means that organ donation is not a personal affair but the role of the whole community.

Due to advances in technology, doctors can keep a person's heart pumping long after the brain is dead (Cecka 281). This is possible through the use of specific machines. By so doing, doctors can protect other organs of the body for harvesting. However, it is difficult for members of the family to believe a member is dead when his heart is still beating. It is probably a perfect time for legal experts to revise the law to allow for easy donation of organs for dying people.

Many states in the US have made efforts to make the process of organ donation easy. Donors can now sign donor cards in the presence of a couple of witnesses. Nevertheless, the issue of witnesses is still a barrier in the quest for organ donation. Consequently, some states have worked earnestly to reduce the number of witnesses.

Nevertheless, some people may want to donate organs while they are living. Such organs include the kidney, part of the skin and stem cells among others. Such donors still need approval from family members before they can send out their body tissues or organs. Therefore, it is crucial to address the issue of the family in organ donation.

Organ donation has not been without serious social challenges. This has seen the emergence of a horrendous type of crime. There is illegal trade in human organs. Criminals may kill people so as to obtain organs which they can sell and earn large sums of money. This is due to the high demand for body organs, especially in bright economies. In the developing world, few people may afford an organ transplant.

The shortage of organs for transplanting is posing serious challenges to the whole process of organ donation. Several people may require an organ transplant and have sufficient resources to afford it, but cannot get access to the appropriate organ. In the United States, over 83,000 people are awaiting organ transplants.

In the past, people relied on a constant supply of organs from victims of car crashes. However, an extensive campaign about the use of seat belts and airbags has substantially reduced the number of casualties in such accidents. This means that there are fewer people donating organs today because most of the victims of car crashes survive.

A shortage of organs for transplant requires the use of distributive justice when dishing out available organs. The concept of distributive justice indicates that society should share out resources fairly and equally to all people. In the context of equal access to resources, medical personnel can allocate available organs for transplant basing on objective factors that eliminate discrimination and unfairness.

Proponents of equal access to resources assert that organ transplantation is a serious medical procedure worth offering to those in dire need. Since the procedure is necessary, specifically to save lives, people should obtain it in equal measure. Encouraging consistency in

organ allocation requires a careful method of distribution that is free of biases rooted in race, sex, income or geographical distance from the organ (Center for Bioethics 15).

Others argue that equal access translates into a distribution system that is devoid of social or medical worthiness biases. Medical worthiness could lock out patients who have contributed to the failure of their own organs through smoking or drug abuse. Social worthiness refers to a patient's place or position in society. This would work to the disadvantage of people whose social standing is low.

Moreover, there may be cases where certain individuals choose to die for their loved ones. This is where a person may choose to give his heart to another member of the family with the result of losing his life. This brings to the fore the issue of persons with terminal diseases: should they give up their organs to their healthy counterparts?

Organ donation, therefore, requires an unprejudiced approach. The demand for body organs is high as few people actually get to donate their organs even in death. Many people may be willing to give out their body organs in death, but the surviving members of the family may be in the way because the organs have to be harvested soon after death, when mourning period is still on-going. However, the legal fraternity has to work to enact laws that would make the process of donating organs easier and faster. They should also place strict measures in place to curb the possibility of illegal trade in human organs. Nevertheless, the allocation of available organs should be deprived of any discriminations or biases.

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