

Father Muller Charitable Institutions, Mangalore

VOLUNTARY BODY DONATION – A NOBLE ACT

Body donation is an act of giving one's body after death for medical education and research. Cadavers and donated bodies remain a vital teaching tool for anatomists and medical educators teaching gross Anatomy.

Anatomy, the study of structures of the human body, is one of the first, most basic, yet one of the most important subjects studied by medical students when they begin their medical career. Teaching and research in Anatomy is mainly based on cadaveric dissection. A sound knowledge of Anatomy is essential from the beginning of medical education, and knowledge obtained through dissection of human body is an indispensable part of the education of health care professionals.

With the mushrooming of Medical Institutions in the country, there has been an increasing demand of cadavers for anatomy dissection. An unclaimed cadaver can be obtained legally for purpose of dissection after getting the clearance from Police Department. Even among the unclaimed bodies cleared by the Police Department, all the bodies may not be useful for the Anatomy Department e.g. autopsied bodies, decomposed bodies, obese bodies, extremely emaciated bodies, bodies of individuals who had died of contagious or communicable diseases etc. In such cases, voluntary body donation by interested people helps the medical institutions to get adequate number of cadavers for their students. Voluntary body donation is a process where, an individual voluntarily donates his body (after his/her death) with the intension of giving back to the society their contribution, and giving a student a chance to learn something that can influence generations to come. So the body donation is an act of giving one's body after death voluntarily for medical research and education.

Arrangements have been made to receive the bodies from voluntary donors at Father Muller Medical College Hospital for which certain mandatory formalities are to be followed. Anybody who wishes to donate his/her body can approach the Administrator, Father Muller Medical College Hospital or any representatives of the management. Persons willing to donate the body will be given two sets of specific forms in duplicate.

- (1) One set has to be filled up by the donor in which the donor has to authorize his representative who will handover donor's body to Father Muller Medical College Hospital after the donor's death. Donor has to attest the signature of the authorized person in the form and at the space provided in the form for the same. Donor's signature has to be attested by two witness at the space provided in the form.
- (2) The completed form in duplicate has to be handed over to the authorities of Father Muller Medical College Hospital.
- (3) An identity number will be given to the completed form and one copy will be handed over back to the donor.
- (4) The second set of forms are to be given to the authorized person who will hand over the body of the donor after his death.

- (5) The duplicate copy of the first form with the official identity number given by the Father Muller Medical College Hospital also has to be given to the authorized person.
- (6) The authorized person has to bring the copy of the first form already completed and numbered, and the 2nd form duly completed, at the time of handing over the body to the institution.
- (7) Concerned authorities will confirm the identity of the donor, and the authorized person to handover the body, with the help of the 1st form.
- (8) They will receive the body and give a copy of the second form with a receipt recorded over the form for having received the body.

The execution of an anatomical gift is a gift of life. It can be the ultimate fulfillment of one's own life. Body donation is a generous and unselfish act for those who wish to be useful to the living even after death. The donor will help the medical students to further their learning, hands on skill training and research. People should think about this noble act based on sound reasons and convictions before taking a decision, and be blessed by their decision and action.

Note:

1. Copy of a certificate from treating medical practitioner regarding the cause and manner of death of the deceased person should be attached along with the consent form duly signed with name of doctor in capital letters and Reg. No.
2. Copy of Aadhar card of the deceased.
