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**AGE AND GENDER DISTRIBUTION AMONG VOLUNTARY BLOOD DONORS IN
KODAPAKKAM, PUDUCHERRY, INDIA**

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ABSTRACT

Background: Blood and its components plays an important role in life saving. These blood can be obtained in units from either by voluntary or replacement donors. In spite of doing extensive research, the substitutes cannot meet the demand. Hence, blood donation has to be promoted to meet the demand. To achieve the target at satisfactory level, the awareness to be created on general population and at all age groups. This study helps to identify the gender and age group distribution of the voluntary and replacement blood donors. **Aims and Objectives:** 1. To identify the gender distribution among the voluntary and replacement blood donors. 2. To identify the age group distribution among the voluntary and replacement blood donors. **Materials and Methods:** The subjects in this study were the voluntary and replacement blood donors in the blood bank of Sri Lakshmi Narayana Institute of Medical Sciences, Puducherry for the period of one year. **Results:** In the present study, the gender distribution among voluntary and replacement blood donors shows male predominance when compared to females. Out of which, the male voluntary donors were around 1300 and females were around 200. Similarly in replacement

donors, the male (2100) outnumbered females(400). The younger age group(18-30 years) are the major donors in both voluntary and replacement blood donation. **Conclusion:** In spite of many educational and awareness programs conducted either by government or institutions, the voluntary blood donation has not reached its sufficient level. The replacement donors are motivated under stressful circumstances only. Moreover, the younger age groups are involved more than other age group populations. Hence, tremendous efforts in motivating people is to be done and adequate campaign is to be done on all populations for voluntary donation of blood.

Keywords: Blood Donors, Gender, Age Group

INTRODUCTION

Though there are plenty of research works going on among the blood and its substitutes, the demand of blood and its components are high. These demands cannot be met successfully. Around 8.5 million units of blood needed per year, we have only only 4.4 million units of blood, out of which the voluntary donors contribute only 52% which is very meagre [1-4].

Hence voluntary blood donors are promoted so as to meet the required blood supply. These donated blood can be used in various purposes as prophylactically and therapeutically. The donated blood can be used for surgeries, anaemic patients, major trauma and bleeding disorders [2-6].

The blood can be collected in a blood bank from voluntary blood donors and replacement donors. The remunerated blood donors are avoided so as to reduce the risk of transfusion transmitted infections. These voluntary blood donors are also to be

motivated in their activities and these replacement blood donors are to be motivated for voluntary blood donation [3, 4, 5].

According to WHO, the countries blood stock can be maintained, if 3-5% of the general population donates the blood. But this target cannot be maintained as there is a decreased blood donors available. The National blood policy also aims in promoting the voluntary blood donors and ensuring the safe blood supply [5-8]. These donation of blood is a humanitarian act and both genders are equally to be motivated. Hence, this study helps to know the gender and age wise distribution among blood donors.

Aims and Objectives

1. To identify the gender distribution among the voluntary and replacement blood donors.

2. To identify the age group distribution among the voluntary and replacement blood donors.

were around 1500 and replacement donors were around 2500.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

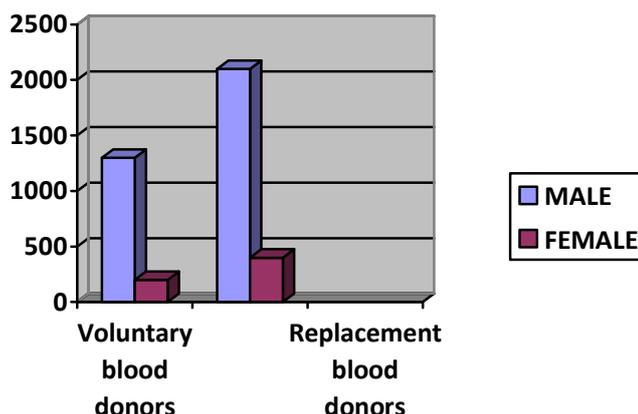
The subjects in this study were the voluntary and replacement blood donors in the blood bank of Sri Lakshmi Narayana Institute of Medical Sciences, Puducherry.

Study period: One year from Jan 2018 to December 2018.

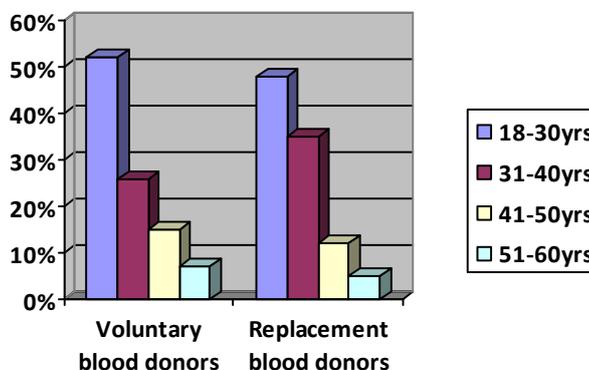
The total units collected from donors were around 4000. Among these voluntary donors

RESULTS

In the present study, the gender distribution among voluntary and replacement blood donors shows male (3600) predominance when compared to females (200). Out of which, the male voluntary donors were around 1300 and females were around 200. Similarly in replacement donors, the male (2100) outnumbered females (400).



Age Distribution among the Donors



Age Groups (In Years)	Voluntary Blood Donors	Replacement Blood Donors
18-30	52%	48%
31-40	26%	35%
41-50	15%	12%
51-60	7%	5%

DISCUSSION

Nowadays the blood donation awareness programs are used widely in order to increase the voluntary donors. In spite of having educational programs, still we lack in blood donors leads to inadequate blood units. Though donation of blood is considered as a humanitarian and behavioural act, the

response from the general population is not adequate to meet the demands of the blood supply. These blood can be life saving in many conditions [7-10].

In the present study, Male donors outnumbered the female donors as similar in various other studies such as Samreen *et al*, Patel *et al*, Swarajya *et al* [11, 12, 13].

Various Studies	Male Donors	Female Donors
Samreen <i>et al</i> [11]	95.5%	4.5%
Patel <i>et al</i> [12]	95%	5%
Swarajya <i>et al</i> [13]	95%	5%
Present Study	90%	10%

The majority of the age group among the donors ranges from 18 years to 30 years, whereas it decreases as the age increases. Hence, the younger population has more motivation in donating blood which is similar with Razdan *et al*. The older age groups have to be motivated for voluntary donations.

CONCLUSION

In spite of many educational and awareness programs conducted either by government or institutions, the voluntary blood donation has not reached its sufficient level. The replacement donors are motivated under stressful circumstances only.

Moreover, the younger age groups are involved more than other age group populations. Hence, tremendous efforts in motivating people is to be done and adequate campaign is to be done on all populations for voluntary donation of blood.

Conflict of Interest: Nil

Source of Funding: Self/Diagnostic kits are provided by institution as on complimentary basis for research.

Ethical Clearance No: No.IEC/C:62/2016

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