

DR ARTI SPREADING AWARENESS ON ORGAN DONATION

Life is too precious to be lost to an organ failure but millions have lost their lives because a vital organ failed to function in the body and therefore I wish to promote organ donation through all means," says **Dr. Arti Vij** who has served in the All India Institute of Medical Sciences for decades.

As a doctor, I always wish people should be alive till all the options are not closed and this idea came when I saw many well-known and unknown people die of organ failure," says Dr. Arti. She has initiated the concept of Organ Retrieval Banking Organization. Since its inception, ORBO has had a system of a donor card and from which are distributed to people who are supposed to keep the card on their person after pledging their vital organs on death. There is neither any count on how many such forms have been distributed so far nor on the number of people who returned the forms say sources at the hospital. More than 11000 have pledged and around 565

transplants have taken place. "When a person is declared dead or has established brain death, then he or she can contribute organs to our organization. One can donate organs and tissues like heart, lungs, liver, pancreas, kidneys, eyes heart valves, skin, bones and blood vessels. This process is different from the people who donate their kidney to a blood relative. All transplants in ORBO are done after body is declared dead and no functioning remains," adds Dr. Arti.

ORBO, contrary to popular perception, is not going to be a literal bank for storing harvested organs from cadavers. It is supposed to be a huge database enlisting the



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Forming a network among hospitals all over the country. ORBO is organizing various camps to spread awareness about organ donation. "Not only liver and kidney but many tissues have also been transplanted by various means in ORBO", she adds. She is working for a noble cause and would love coordination from people to support this. If interested in organ donation, one may call on toll free number 1060.

needy patients as well as also donors who pledge their body parts after death called by

- **PAROMA BHATTACHARYA**