

Contribution of MOHAN Foundation to SDG 3

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In a landmark meeting in 2015, all member nations of the UN adopted an Agenda for Sustainable Development for 2030, aiming to create peace and prosperity for people and the planet. This agenda is guided by 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which recognize that action in one area affects outcomes in others, and that development must balance social, economic, and environmental sustainability.

Goal 3 aims to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all, at all ages. It seeks to address global improvements in maternal health for women and babies, increase life expectancy for all, and reduce some of the most common and preventable causes of death. This goal also addresses all major health priorities: child and adolescent health, communicable and non-communicable diseases, universal health coverage, and access to safe, effective, quality, and affordable medicines and vaccines for all.

MOHAN Foundation began its journey in 1997, engaging the public in understanding the concepts and nuances of organ donation. In its 27 years of existence, more than 25 million people have been educated and sensitized about organ donation, and over 81,000 have pledged as donors on their online donor registry.

Despite these efforts, the rate of donation still does not meet the need for organs required. The presence of a trained grief counsellor can support families in making decisions about organ donation in ICU hospital settings. Training such healthcare specialists has been a key factor in the increase of deceased donations in the country. MOHAN Foundation has trained 4051 grief counsellors and transplant coordinators (December 2009 - June 2024), who now work in almost 60% to 70% of the transplanting hospitals in India.

Setting up processes and establishing local protocols in government hospitals to start both living and deceased donations and transplantation has been another significant contribution of MOHAN Foundation towards achieving SDG 3 goals. Examples include states like Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Rajasthan, and Manipur. In 1998, only Four states and Union Territory in India which included Tamil Nadu, Delhi, Karnataka, and Maharashtra - were somewhat successful in conducting deceased donations. By 2022, 26 States and Union Territories in India had begun performing transplants.

MOHAN Foundation has been instrumental in advocating for ethical deceased donation and transplantation, thus fulfilling a major goal of Sustainable Development. Their continuous efforts have made a significant impact on improving health outcomes and saving lives, aligning with the objectives of SDG 3.

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