

Editorial Desk**Transplant Coordinators: A Key Link
in the Donation-to-Transplant Journey****Impact of MOHAN Foundation's Trained Transplant Coordinators****Sujatha Suriyamoorthi**

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Every successful organ transplant is the outcome of the coordinated efforts of a multidisciplinary healthcare team, with transplant coordinators serving as one of the key links in the donation-to-transplant journey. Acting as a bridge between healthcare professionals, hospital administration, regulatory authorities, donor families, recipients, and other stakeholders, transplant coordinators must bring compassion, effective communication, sound clinical knowledge, meticulous coordination, and the ability to manage emotionally and physically challenging situations while upholding ethical and legal standards.

Recognising their importance, the 2011 amendments to the Transplantation of Human Organs Act made it mandatory for every hospital in India seeking registration as a transplant centre, retrieval centre or tissue bank to appoint a trained transplant coordinator. Even before this legal provision was introduced, to address the need for skilled transplant coordinators, MOHAN Foundation initiated comprehensive, structured training programmes in 2009. The training curriculum covers the medical, legal, ethical and religious aspects as well as grief counselling and transplant coordination.

Between December 2009 and June 2026, MOHAN Foundation conducted 127 Transplant Coordinators' Training Programmes of varying durations, including 73 face-to-face and 54 online programmes. The face-to-face training programmes were conducted across multiple states in India and one in Bangladesh, with a total of 5,054 individuals trained. The Foundation's flagship week-long Transplant Coordinators' Training Programme was later adopted by the National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organization (NOTTO) and 28 such programmes were conducted under the aegis of NOTTO. In addition to NOTTO, the training programmes were also conducted in collaboration with bodies such as Armed Forces Organ Retrieval & Transplantation Authority (AORTA), Fortis Organ Retrieval & Transplant (FORT) and Society of Transplantation, Bangladesh. The one-year online programme, Post-Graduate Diploma in Transplant Coordination and Grief Counselling, was recognised as one of the top three finalists for the BMJ South Asia Award in 2018.

In December 2025, MOHAN Foundation was recognized as a training provider by the CPD Standards Office, United Kingdom and its short-term and long-term online training programs for transplant coordinators received CPD accreditation.

In 2010, MOHAN Foundation signed a pilot project with Rajiv Gandhi Government General Hospital (RGGGH), Chennai, to strengthen the hospital's deceased organ donation programme by placing trained transplant coordinators at no cost. These coordinators worked closely with the intensive care team, counselling grieving families and coordinating deceased organ donation.

Between February 2010 and January 2020, 299 patients were certified as brainstem dead at RGGGH. When approached, 198 out of 291 families consented to donate their loved ones' organs with an impressive 68% consent rate (Image 1). A total of 136 multi-organ donations were coordinated, resulting in the retrieval of 854 organs and tissues. The inclusion of transplant coordinators led to successful outcomes, with the hospital contributing 11% of Tamil Nadu's deceased organ donations during the period.

This success led to the placement of transplant coordinators in other government hospitals in Tamil Nadu as well as at various public and private hospitals in seven other states including some in the Northeast. Many other trained transplant

**Organ Donation Counselling : Impact of Trained Transplant Coordinators
at Rajiv Gandhi Government General Hospital (RGGGH), Chennai, Tamil Nadu**

February 2010 - January 2020

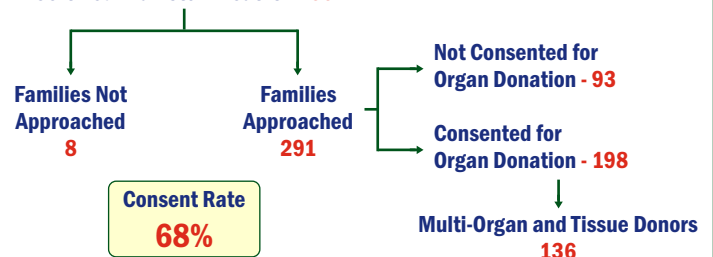
Certified Brainstem Deaths - 299

Image 1 - RGGGH, Chennai - Organ Donation Conversations

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Transplant Coordinators: A Key Link in the Donation-to-Transplant Journey

Impact of MOHAN Foundation's Trained Transplant Coordinators

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coordinators were subsequently employed by transplant centres across the country. Follow-up data from February 2010 to March 2026 indicate that these transplant coordinators contributed to the donation of more than 16,900 organs and tissues, saving thousands of lives and improving the quality of life of recipients (Table 1).

Beyond deceased donation, these coordinators also play a vital role in creating awareness, coordinating living donor transplant programmes, facilitating legal documentation and approvals, counselling recipients, coordinating transplant procedures and post-transplant follow-up.

It is evident that transplant coordinators are integral to the success of every transplant programme. Working closely with patients, families, and multidisciplinary healthcare teams, they serve as a vital liaison throughout the donation and transplantation process. Structured training that emphasizes clinical knowledge, communication skills, empathy, and ethical practice equips transplant coordinators to support patients and families effectively, foster trust in the healthcare system, and contribute to improved donation rates and transplant outcomes.

Table 1 - Organ and tissue donations facilitated by MOHAN Foundation's transplant coordinators deputed to government hospitals and collaborating private hospitals, and by the transplant coordinators employed by transplant centres across the country

Year	Kidney	Liver	Heart	Lungs	Pancreas	Intestine	Heart Valves	Corneas	Skin	Bone	Hand
2010	107	53	9	0	0	0	74	124	0	0	0
2011	184	85	8	2	0	0	140	190	0	0	0
2012	144	70	11	12	1	1	65	206	0	0	0
2013	200	99	11	11	0	0	84	264	0	0	0
2014	309	167	32	10	4	0	138	477	3	0	0
2015	377	193	38	20	2	1	106	422	8	0	0
2016	538	268	76	34	16	0	84	599	25	0	0
2017	429	209	81	45	4	3	12	680	38	0	0
2018	405	207	61	47	1	1	30	854	40	21	2
2019	378	176	50	45	3	0	36	1184	43	55	0
2020	170	75	29	43	1	1	20	422	14	29	2
2021	125	60	21	26	5	0	6	583	4	5	0
2022	128	50	19	17	8	0	4	773	5	0	0
2023	79	36	10	7	3	0	4	1075	3	0	0
2024	103	33	6	6	15	0	4	830	11	0	0
2025	69	29	7	4	3	0	23	556	17	0	0
2026 (till March)	14	6	1	1	0	0	0	80	4	0	0
TOTAL	3759	1816	470	330	66	7	830	9319	215	110	4
16,926 Organs and Tissues Retrieved and Transplanted											

