

Invited Article

Saga Of Deceased Organ Donation In Karnataka

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Karnataka's deceased organ donation program made a remarkable progress in 2022, recording 151 deceased donations and securing the state's position as the third highest in India, following Telangana and Tamil Nadu.

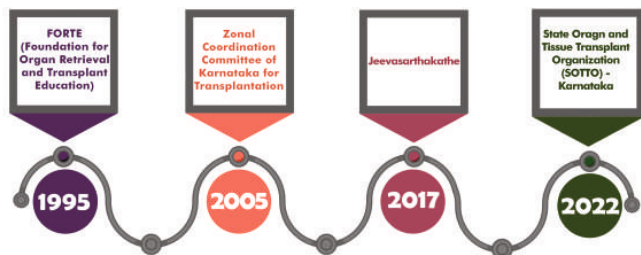
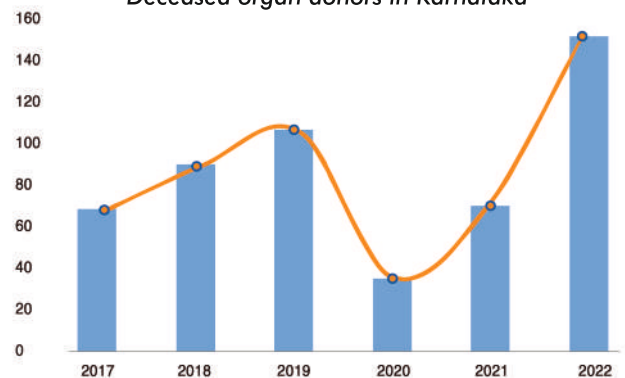
The Transplantation of Human Organs Act, 1994 issued by the Government of India, was adopted by the Legislative Assembly of Karnataka in 1995. The state's journey towards deceased donations began in the same year with the establishment of FORTE (Foundation for Organ Retrieval and Transplant Education), a non-governmental organization based in Bengaluru. In 2005, FORTE was merged with the state-supported body called the Zonal Coordination Committee of Karnataka for Transplantation (ZCCK), which worked towards streamlining and coordinating deceased donation activities in Karnataka. Later, in 2017, ZCCK underwent a transformation to become an autonomous registered society named Jeevasarthakathe. Subsequently, in 2022, Jeevasarthakathe was formally recognized as SOTTO-Karnataka (State Organ and Tissue Transplant Organization) by the Central Government.

SOTTO Karnataka has established five zones across the state, namely Mangaluru, Mysuru, Hubballi-Dharwad, Kalaburagi, and Bengaluru serving as the headquarters. In order to improve the program, it has undertaken a number of measures, including creating an enabling ecosystem for organ donation and transplantation, streamlining the deceased donation process, and creating strong partnerships with various stakeholders such as hospitals, medical professionals, government and non government agencies. In addition to these measures, SOTTO Karnataka has also been actively involved in raising awareness among the general public.

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Donations	68	89	105	35	70	151
Kidney	105	138	168	56	99	241
Liver	61	82	87	30	60	128
Heart	18	34	27	8	21	46
Pancreas	4	3	4	0	3	4
Small Bowel	2	0	0	2	2	0
Lungs	4	14	31	6	10	12
Hand	0	1	1	0	0	0
Heart Valves	28	37	42	12	21	64
Cornea	112	142	152	50	92	246
Skin	4	4	6	4	13	27
TOTAL	338	455	518	168	321	768

The above table includes data for multi-organ transplants such as heart & lung, kidney & pancreas, liver & kidney

Deceased organ donors in Karnataka



Pathbreaking work by SOTTO - Karnataka

- Identifying Non-Transplant Human Organ Retrieval Centres (NTHORC) and supporting their licensing and facilitating deceased donations
- Maintaining online registries for transplant wait list and pledge registry
- Organ-based advisory committees were formed to make clinical decisions regarding the offered organs
- Expert committee for brain death certification was formed to support and handhold the ICU professionals when required
- Ongoing capacity building programs conducted for stakeholders



Kidney-shaped human chain by over 5000 people (awareness drive conducted at Vidhana Soudha, Bengaluru in August 2022)



Karnataka sees rise in organ transportation

In 2022, over 100 green corridors were established between various cities of the state to transport not just heart and lung but also other organs when the distance was quite far.

Green corridor tweeted by Dr Keshava Sudhakar, Honourable Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Government of Karnataka

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