



Photos Brijesh Kumar



Recognizing the need to bridge the yawning gap between the number of organ transplants needed in the country and the number of donors available, nearly 1000 people including celebrities, doctors, students and donors came together for a 2 kilometre walk on Saturday to promote the cause of organ donation.

Christened Donorthon 2010, the event saw the participants walking from NOIDA mor all the way to the Akshardham temple. Organized by the Liver Transplant Team of Sir Ganga Ram Hospital in association with Swaminarayan Akshardham, Mohan Foundation and Via Media & Communications, the walk also marked the completion of 500 Liver transplants by Sir Ganga Ram Hospital.

Nearly 500,000 people die annually in the country due to heart, liver or kidney failure. Of these a large number of people can be saved if they receive organ transplants in time. As of now only 4000 transplant procedures are being performed in the country every year, apparently due to a lack of donors. Experts aver that this gap can be easily bridged if people step forward and pledge their organs for donation.





(The session in progress)

“Pledging your organs for donation can help save a lot of lives. A single brain dead person can donate as many as 30 organs and tissues and save as many as 6 lives. We need to raise awareness levels so as to ensure that more and more people pledge to donate their organs after death. It is a matter of great concern that the organ donation rate in the



Ms. Lalitha Raghuram  
Country Director, Mohan Foundation




country is among the lowest anywhere despite India having the largest number of potential donors in the world”, said Dr. A.S.Soin, Director of Liver Transplantation, Sir Ganga Ram Hospital.

It is estimated that about 100,000 transplants are needed overall every year in the country. Around 25,000 people need to donate their organs every year to fulfill this need. In this context the current state of affairs is rather dismal

Said Ms. Lalitha Raghuram, Country Director, Mohan Foundation, “In spite of having a large number of people who could be potential donors, the organ donation rates in India reflect a sorry state of affairs. Only 20 donors were available in Delhi in 2009. When one compares this with the organ donation rates abroad - 14/million in UK, 22/million in the USA, and 35/million in Spain - one gets a fair idea about how far we have to go before we can claim that the efforts being made towards promoting organ transplantation in India have been successful”.

Spreading awareness is the only way to improve organ donation rates in the country. Initiatives like Donorthon 2010 are expected to go a long way in raising awareness.

“There is a huge but underutilized potential for organ donation that could save precious lives. We need to educate people. We need to tell them that by pledging to donate their organs they are actually making a huge difference... They are saving lives. This is what Donorthon 2010 is all about. It is our humble attempt to spread the gospel of organ donation. We are delighted that it has generated such a warm response”, said Swadeep Srivastava, CEO Via Media & Communications. 

- About 1 Lac transplants needed in India every year, only 4000 being done
- Overall 25,000 donors needed for 100,000 transplants of various organs every year in the country.
- Only 20 donors available in Delhi in 2009
- 20,000 liver transplants needed in India every year. About 450 done last year; only 110 liver donors available in 2009.