**ABSTRACT:**

INTRODUCTION

Corneal diseases are the second most common cause of visual impairment and blindness, accounting for approximately 7-8 million cases of blindness in the world. Treatment for restoring vision in patients with corneal blindness is done with corneal transplantation, which requires corneal donation. Currently in India, the collection of donor eyes amounts to around 22,000 eyes each year, which is far less important in terms of need. Therefore, collecting donor eyes is a priority in any organized effort to reduce corneal blindness.

OBJECTIVES AND OBJECTIVES

Awareness and information documentation about eye donation in MBBS 1st year students and comparison with 2nd year MBBS students.

MATERIALS AND METHODS:

Questionnaires were given to the 1st and 2nd MBBS students and statistical analysis was carried out on the knowledge and awareness of the students about eye donation. 145 students from 1st MBBS and 145 students from 2nd MBBS participated in the study.

RESULTS:

Of the total 290 students, 285 (98.28%) had awareness about eye donation. 110 (75.8%) 1st year students and 126 (86.9%) 2nd year students were aware that eye donation should be made within the first 6 hours after death.

CONCLUSION:

Although multiple strategies are currently being pursued to raise awareness of eye donations and corneal transplants, more innovative strategies need to be developed and more information incorporated into the curriculum.

KEYWORDS: Eye donation, Medical students, Corneal Blindness