

Chapter 22

Organ Selling: When It Becomes a Business

ABSTRACT

Citizens of underprivileged areas submit to temptations and end up selling their organs for their great need for money. Some say that it is a personal choice and that each is responsible for making such a decision, while others believe that such a transaction is inherently unethical. In reality, the exchange of an organ for money does not end well most of the time. Quite often, the gangs and doctors receiving the organ fail to abide by the agreement leading to the ethical dilemma resulting from organ selling. Organ selling should never be legalized since there would always be a price war and its effects could not be confined. People by nature are greedy; thus, leading to black market again. Moreover, the demand is much more than the supply; thus, there is no specified criteria for who receives the organ as any method used would eventually lead to more complications.

INTRODUCTION

Organ selling has two forms. The first form is getting the organ from a needy person under his willingness and his acceptance. The second form is organ theft. This is when people are kidnapped, killed, and left without some of their organs. It is true that as humans we are free to make our own choices and decisions concerning how we live our lives and about our own ends. We have a fundamental right of “autonomy” or “self-rule”. However, is this also applicable when it comes to choosing to sell our organs? Does this autonomy

lead someone to give away a part of his body in return for money? Many questions come to mind when trying to deal with the issue of organs selling. This phenomenon is not new, but it is increasing nowadays to the extent that it has become a business. Many people, gangs, and even doctors are involved in selling live human organs. Such people are manipulating people’s mind and are taking advantage of their poor financial states. As a result, citizens of underprivileged areas submit to such temptations and end up selling their organs for their great need for money. There are several stories about people who became the victims

of temptations, and thus sold their kidneys as it become their final resort to gain money. Many argue whether organ selling is ethically acceptable or not. Some say that it's a personal choice and that everyone is responsible for taking such a decision. While others believe that it is unethical to do such a transaction. In reality, the exchange of an organ for money doesn't end well most of the time. Quite often the gangs and doctors receiving the organ fail to abide by the agreement and even sometimes threaten the misfortunate to sell their organs which leads to a free organ transplant. Let's assume the best case scenario where the organ seller receives a full payment. The question aroused here is the portion of money used as medication to compensate for such a loss. The organ seller eventually ends up paying for medication and treatment much more than what he has received as a payment for selling his organ in the first place. We are living in a vicious world where selling an organ has become equivalent to selling a pair of socks.

BACKGROUND

Organ selling is a critical issue that should be dealt with immediately. Statistics show various cases of organ theft and selling around the world. Poor countries such as: Pakistan, India, South Africa, Brazil are usually the main victims of organ selling. Rich countries such as: Israel, United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Japan ... abuse the weak financial situation third world citizens are in, and pay relatively low amounts to buy some of their organs. In India, about 2000 Indians sell their kidneys yearly even though the law banned such actions since 1994. Data illustrates that 1/5 of the kidneys transplanted worldwide came from the black market. The act of selling organs is be-

coming a regular practice; in fact, some brokers are earning as much as 200,000\$ for matching an organ donor to receipt. Are human organs treated as business assets nowadays?

Iran is the only country that legalizes human sales, but they consider it organ sharing instead of organ selling. The government runs the whole operation and links the donor to the recipient. There are no private players involved such as brokers or any other intermediaries. Organ selling is also present in the United States, where a kidney trafficker was convicted of selling kidney transplants to customers for \$120,000. He was paying the kidney seller in Israel \$10,000 for their kidneys. The poor are being exploited in such cases; hence immediate actions are required to prevent these disgraceful acts.

More than a100 illegal operations were carried out at a hospital in Durban, South Africa between 2001 and 2003; thus, showing us that for the right price anything is possible even getting an organ. What a big shame it is that doctors are accepting bribes to perform the required surgery. Will people walk with price tags on them in the near future? Net care admitted that it had enrolled children to contribute their kidneys which were then transplanted into wealthy clients. This is an unethical act. The usage of innocent children as a means to help wealthy people is completely unacceptable. Aren't all humans born equally? Why are some being deprived them of organs just because others are wealthier? Where is the government intervention?

Also, according to a report by CNN, human smugglers drug their victims and cut out their organs for sale to doctors in Egypt. The doctors and hospitals pay up to \$20,000 for these black market organs. Those outrageous acts should be stopped immediately. An estimated 250 to 300 people in Bangladesh sell their organs for money

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