

Commercial living kidney donors — Demographic profiles by country

	Egypt N=142	Iran N=300	India N=305	Pakistan N=239	Philippines N=29
Sex (% of male/ female CLDs)	95% male/ 5% female	71% male/ 29% female	29% male/ 71% female	78% male/ 22% female	93% male/ 7% female
Age (median)	33	33	35	33	34
Marital status (at time of surgery)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 44 % married • 45 % single • 1% divorced • 10 % unknown 	• 81% married	N/A	• 94% married	N/A
Education level	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 35% illiterate • 60 % less than high school • 5% high school 	2.7 years of schooling	• 90% illiterate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 52% elementary education • 44% high school
Employment Status	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 27 % unemployed • 42% part-time employed • 13% full-time employed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 60% of female and 95% of male participants worked as laborers or street vendors • 71 % live below poverty line 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 69% were bonded laborers • 12% laborers 8.5% housewives • 11% unemployed 	N/A
Insured	2%	4%	N/A	N/A	N/A

Donor - reported consequences

	Egypt N= 50	Iran N=300	India N=305	Pakistan N=239	Philippines N=29
Health	78% a deterioration in their health condition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 58% effects on health were very negative. • 79% poverty prevented vendors from attending follow-up visits, • 60% negative effects on the physical abilities 	86% a deterioration in their health status after nephrectomy.	98% a deterioration in general health status	48% negative effects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ‘Now I get tired more easily than before’ • ‘I became weaker’ • ‘I cannot carry heavy things as I could before’
Economic/ Financial	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 81% spent the money within 5 months of their donation. • 73% a weakened ability to perform labor-intensive jobs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • kidney vending caused somewhat (20%) to very (66%) negative financial effects. • 65% reported that kidney vending caused negative effects on employment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • average family income declined by one third after nephrectomy • 96% of donors sold their kidneys to pay off debts • 75% of donors were still in debt at the time of the survey 	88% had no economic improvement in their lives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 93% did not help economic hardship • 21% affected their capacity to work (N=14) • 14% discrimination in employment (could not pass medical examination)
Social	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 68% did not tell anyone about their donation • 91% felt socially isolated about concerns related to their donation • 85% were unwilling to be known as organ sellers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 68% their families strongly disagreed with vending, which increased marital conflicts in 73% of vendors, including 21% who divorced • 70% of vendors isolated from society, and 71% had severe post-operative depression • 37% concealed the truth of kidney sale from anyone, 14% disclosed it only to spouses • 94% were unwilling to be known as donors 	15% noted that their spouse had also sold a kidney. The other married participants (159 female and 62 males) were asked why they sold rather than their spouse. Females said that their husbands were the breadwinners (30%) or were ill (28%). The most common responses by male participants were that they sold voluntarily (52%) or that their wives were ill or pregnant (19%).	N/A	N/A
Psychological/ Regret	94% felt regret about their donation and an inability to get further assistance from those involved with their donation including the recipient, broker, labs, or transplant center.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preoccupation with kidney loss was usually (30%) to always (57%) • 85% would definitely not vend again, and 76% strongly discouraged potential vendors from “repeating their error” • Half the vendors were ready to lose greater than 10 years of life and 76% to 100% of properties to regain kidneys. 	79% percent would not recommend that others sell a kidney	35% encouraged future vending to pay off debts and freedom from bondage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 24% stated regret (sisi) for selling a kidney • some also reported shame (hiya) for being known as a kidney seller • some reported getting bad ‘Karma’ or punishment, including a decline in their health and difficulty in finding a job

* Sources: Egypt – Budiani 2006; Iran – Zargooshi 2001; India – Ghoyal et al.; Philippines – Shimazono 2006.

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