



# Cadaver Donation in India

**Source: IE**

A recent study indicates that the **increase in medical colleges has led to a higher demand for cadavers**, prompting these institutions to increasingly **rely on unclaimed bodies** for **medical education** due to **a shortage of cadaver donations in India**.

- **About:** **Cadaver donation** involves donating the entire body to science after death, primarily to help train doctors in understanding human anatomy and practising surgery.
- **Eligibility:** Anyone above 18 years can legally consent to donate their body. In case of no prior consent, next of kin can donate.
- **Exclusions:** Bodies of organ donors or those with **infectious diseases** like tuberculosis, HIV, or sepsis, and bodies involved in medico-legal cases may be rejected.
- **Unclaimed Bodies:** Colleges use unclaimed bodies under the **state's Anatomy Act**, where relatives must claim the body within 48 hours.
  - Unclaimed bodies often belong to marginalised or poor individuals, raising ethical questions about consent.
- **Unlike organ donations**, there is **no national organisation** to monitor whole-body donations. Typically, this responsibility falls directly to the anatomy departments of medical colleges.
  - The **National Organ & Tissue Transplant Organization**, under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, manages organ transplantation from deceased donors.

**Read more:** [State of Medical Education in India](#)

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