

## **The Meat market Summary- Alex Taghi Tabarrok**

Professor of Economic, Alex Tabarrok, in this essay has discussed about the problem of human organ harvesting, organ transplantation, present day shortage of human organs like heart, kidney, liver, some of the methods of solutions to these problems adopted by some countries around the world and ways to fulfill the organ shortage in the USA. The issues raised by the writer particularly deals with USA.

According to the writer, hundreds and thousands of patients are waiting for kidney, liver and heart transplantation around the world but only few of them get transplanted. Many of them die waiting for the donors. There are various problems of shortage of organs-

First, many lost their valuable lives when they could not transplant organ on time. Our organs like eye, heart, liver and kidney are useless after our death. We are either burned or buried but the our organ after our death could life to others.

Second, while there is shortage of human organs for transplantation, the needed one tries various options to get organs. Black marketing is one possibility. Already, the black market may account for 5 to 10 percent of transplants worldwide. The organ donor in black market may not get post- operative care or any other medical facilities thus it may risk the health of donor.

Third, shortage of organs may result in the use of expanded criteria organs. Expanded criteria organs means organs like kidneys from donors who are already 60 years old, or suffering from multiple medical problems. Kidneys from these kinds of people are likely to fail very soon but something better than nothing.

Forth, while the rules of organ transplantation are rather complicated and no facilities for organ donors, many US citizens travel outside country to do dangerous organ transplant.

The writer suggests that the US can also solve all these problems if it follows some of the methods used by other countries around the world. The ways are-

First, countries such as Singapore, Iran and Israel provide financial compensation to the donors. So providing monetary or nonmonetary help may encourage people to donate their organ.

Second, to solve the shortage of organ, the US can apply no give no take option. In this system, those who are ready to donate organs will receive organ first if they need transplantation. This will encourage people to donate their organ because this will develop the feeling that we may fall sick at any time and we may need organ of other at any time so if we are ready to give our organ we will receive other's organ too.

Third, point system as in Israel which is improved version of no give no take can also be implemented. The number will be given to the person on the basis of his/her signing on organ donation card or his relatives who has already donated organ etc. This will push him/her at the top of transplant list and will easily get organ transplanted if needed.

Forth, the presumed consent system or 'opt-out' can also be applied to fulfill organ shortage. The presumed consent system means one is automatic donor of his/her organ after his/her death if he/she has put his/her signature on the paper saying 'I am not ready to donate my organ after my death'. It means the doctor can take organs like kidney, heart, eyes, liver after someone's death.