Should the Government Legalize the Sale of Body Organs?

Name

Institutions

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Part 1

**Problem Statement**

When a failing or injured vital body organ, such as heart, liver, and kidney prove resistant to all medications, patients only shot to life may be a transplant. Unfortunately, the number of donated organs is relatively lower than the demand. The condition leads to some patients, especially the affluent, trying to illegally purchase the organs that they need to survive. As such, thousands of body organs are obtained in the black market according to reports by the World Health Organizations. While some people sell their organs voluntarily due to financial hardships, others are harvested through coercion, especially in developing nations. For this reason, many of the individuals who are opposed to the monetary compensation for body organs believe that it might increase crime rate and disappearances in underdeveloped nations. This is due to the high likelihood of criminal gangs sprouting across the world and engaging in illegal organ trade.

**Key Findings from the 3 Articles and Discovered Gap**

Analysis of the 3 articles reveal that people who support the decriminalization of selling and buying body organs believe that the move will save many lives. Monetary compensation is likely to increase the supply of vital organs and prevent people from spending a lot of time on the waiting list. However, individuals who believe that the selling and buying of body organs should remain criminalized base their positions on ethical considerations. As such, research studies have not covered the financial effects of allowing people to sell their organs to those who need them. Selling organs is likely to uplift the economic wellbeing of poor individuals as they can acquire funds to pursue education or start businesses. Thus, the study intends to evaluate the impact of legalizing the selling and buying of organs on the financial wellbeing of sellers.

Part 2

**Annotated Bibliography**

Chapman J. (2008). Should we pay donors to increase the supply of organs for transplantation? No. *BMJ, 336*(7657), 1343. doi:10.1136/bmj.a179.

According to the article, the sale of body organs, such as kidney and liver, is advocated by the affluent as a fundamental human freedom, yet it is exercised by the poor. As such, the presence of poor people across the world drives the sale of organs as the rich are unlikely to sell their critical body parts. At the same time, the allure of using money to acquire a body organ leaves individuals in doubt as they cannot tell what their actions are morally right. Thus, Chapman explores the issue from a moral perspective, claiming that legalizing the sale of body organs might help the wealthy while compromising the wellbeing of the needy.

Houser, K. (2017, Nov.6). Black market bodies: How legalizing the sale of human organs could save lives. *Futurism*. Retrieved from <https://futurism.com/neoscope/sale-human-organ>.

According to this article, the World Health Organization reports reveal that thousands of body organs are sold and purchase in the black market every year. This stems from the desperation that people with injured or failing body organs face when they cannot obtain the body parts that they need to survive. As such, the article claims that people are already paying for body organs across the globe and uses Iran as a perfect example of the likely impact of legalizing monetary compensation for body organs. According to the reading, every Iranian who needs a kidney can receive one after the nation allowed its residents to sell their body parts in the 1980s. Thus, the article allays fears associated with allowing people to sell body organs, claiming that the practice saves lives.

Matas, A.J. (2004). The case for living kidney sales: Rationale, objections and concerns. *American Journal of Transplantation, 4*(12), 2007-2017.

According to this article, the World Medical Association condemned the sale and purchase of body organs when it was proposed after medical research revealed that living people can donate kidneys. The World Health Organization also weighed into the issue and recommended that physicians should not transplant the organs that they believe were purchased. Despite the opposition, Matas (2004) claims that organ transplants increases patients’ lives. The article further claims that the monetary compensation for body organs decreases the time that patients wait before they receive the body parts that they need. Thus, the article argues that allowing people to sell and buy body parts is likely to enhance the plight of people who experience organ failure.

References

Chapman J. (2008). Should we pay donors to increase the supply of organs for transplantation? No. *BMJ, 336*(7657), 1343. doi:10.1136/bmj.a179.

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