



# Knowledge, Attitude, Practices, and Factors Associated with Voluntary Blood Donation among Graduating Class Students of Assosa University, Benishangul Gumuz, Ethiopia, 2018

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## Abstract

**Background:** Blood transfusion is a vital therapeutic approach in modern health care that saves millions of lives, but there is a great challenge to gate sufficient voluntary blood donation in developing country like Ethiopia at the same time pregnancy and child birth related problem, road traffic accident, malaria-related death is high.

**Methods:** Institutional based cross-sectional quantitative study was used from April 27 to May 11, 2018 and data was collected using a self-administered questionnaire. A stratified sampling method was used and an individual was selected by simple random sampling within each stratum. EPI data version 3.02 for data entry and SPSS version 16 for analysis was used both bi-variant and multi-variant analysis was computed and significance was declared at AOR<0.05.

**Result:** From the total study participants, 162 (48.5%) had adequate knowledge, 230 (68.9%) of the respondent had favorable attitudes towards blood donation whereas only 85 (25.4%) have ever donated blood in their lifetime.

Having inadequate knowledge 3.118 times more likely non-donors (AOR=3.118: 1.775, 5.479) than compared to those having adequate knowledge, and unfavorable attitude 4.254 times non-donors (AOR=4.254% CI: 1.996, 9.069) than compared to those having a favorable attitude. Whereas being a user of television 2.015 times more likely non-donors of blood (AOR=2.015% CI: 1.100, 3.690) than compared to non-user.

**Conclusion:** The result shows that there was poor habit of blood donation practice among students and even from donors above the mean range 57.6% of respondent donate blood to help relatives or friends and we recommend further study in this area, to give training for blood bank service workers and organize motivational blood donor club to utilize potential voluntary blood donors.

**Keywords:** Blood donation; Emergency health care; Assosa; Benishangul gumuz

## Abbreviations

AOR: Adjusted Odd Ration; BBD: Blood Donors' Clinic of Delaware; KAP: Knowledge Attitude Practice; WHO: World Health Organization; VBD: Voluntary Blood Donation

## Introduction

Blood transfusion is an essential component of health care, the key life-saving interventions, which saves millions of lives [1,2]. Each year, every second someone in the world needs blood for surgery, trauma, severe anemia or complications of pregnancy, generous blood donors are the only source of blood for a patient that needs blood transfusions, there no substitute for it, it be mead or manufactured [1,3,4].

Every day, almost 800 women die related to complications of pregnancy and childbirth [2]. Worldwide ever year 1.35 million people die as a result of a road traffic crash, at the same time 93% of the world's fatalities on the roads occur in low and middle-income countries [5]. Road traffic injury death rates are highest in the African, including Ethiopia which is ranked the 6<sup>th</sup> cause of death

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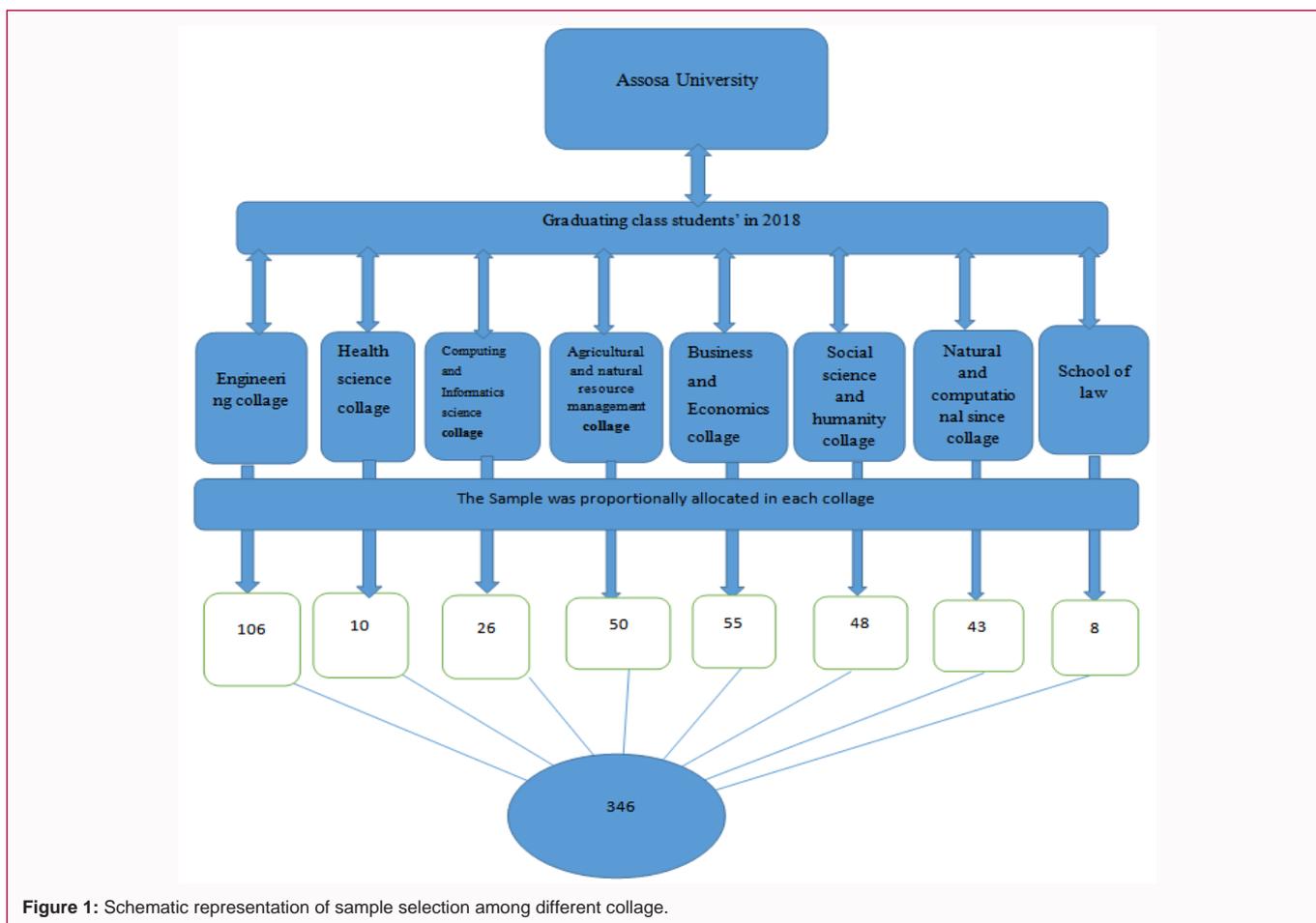


Figure 1: Schematic representation of sample selection among different collage.

according to the latest WHO data published in 2017 [6]. Road traffic injuries are predicted to become the third-largest contributor to the global burden of disease by 2020 [7]. Urgent access to safe supplies of blood for transfusion is critical to saving these women's lives.

Despite WHO recommend 100% Voluntary Non-Remunerated Donation of Blood and blood components to every patient as the need should be available in each health facility, In many countries, family members are often pressured to donate blood or find a replacement donor in an emergency [8]. This causes emotional and financial stress and significant delays in obtaining suitable blood and also puts women at risk of blood-borne infections as there is often no time or facilities to properly screen the donated blood.

University students are expected to be more aware than the general population towards voluntary blood donations among the population. They also considered as a potential pool of eligible voluntary donors and motivators, so, keeping in view, of the significance of blood donation and transfusion is important, but there is no research conducted before in our area and this study was conducted to see the KAP and factors associated with voluntary blood donation among graduating class students would be helpful to identify the gaps and implement appropriate strategies among responsible sectors.

### Materials and Methods

The institution-based cross-sectional study design was used to assess knowledge, attitude, practice, and associated factors towards voluntary blood donation among graduating class students of Assosa

University in 2018. Assosa city was founded in 1936. It is the capital city of Benishangul Gumuz regional state that is located about 666 km western of Addis Ababa (the capital city of Ethiopia), 96 km from Ethio-Sudan border, and 230 km from Ethiopian millennium Renaissance Dam. Assosa University is the only university within the Benishangul Gumuz region and founded in 2004/2011 GC. There are 7 faculties and 1 school of law and have 36 departments under the university in the academic year of 2018. This study was conducted from April 27 to May 11, 2018.

The study population included all graduating class students attending in Assosa University in 2018. Students not available in time of data collection period and students who are critically ill on the days of the data collection period were excluded from this study. Socio-demographic characteristics (Age, Sex, Religion, Department, Residence, and use of social Media) among study participants were used as an independent variable. Whereas Knowledge, attitude, and practice towards voluntary blood donation among graduating class students were the dependent variable.

The sample size was determined by using a single proportion formula based on the prevalence from the previous study conducted in samara university using 54% for knowledge level, using 95% confidence interval level ( $Z_{\alpha/2}=1.96$ ) and absolute precision or margin of error to be 5% ( $d=0.05$ ).

The sample size required was 346 after considering a 10% non-response rate. The study participant was selected using, first graduating class students were stratified based on their college/faculty

and proportionally allocated for each stratum, and the sample was drawn by using simple random sampling technique (lottery method) based on the students' Identification Number (ID NO) (Figure 1).

Data collection was done by pre-tested, pre-coded, and self-administered questionnaire with open and closed-ended questions. This structured questionnaire adapted from similar previous studies on literature and a questionnaire that was modified to the study setting [9,10]. Pre-testing of the questionnaire was performed on 17 (5%) students from the total sample size on Polly Professional technique college students before one week of actual data collection.

Supervision conducted by two principal investigators, finally data were checked for consistency and completeness before analysis.

The questionnaire is originally prepared in English language and then translated to Amharic and again retranslated to English by language experts for consistency and both of them were given to the study participants.

Data were entered with EPI data version 3.02 to minimize data entry error and final data was export to SPSS version 16 for data analysis. The data wound was presented by using table and bar graph after analysis. Frequency distributions, cross-tabulations, and graphs were used to describe the variables under the study. Binary logistic regression analysis was used to examine the association between the independent variables and dependent variables. All variables with p-value <0.2 in bivariate analysis were entered into the final multiple logistic regression model to identify variables independently associated with KAP towards blood donation. The backward stepwise likelihood ratio was used to select the final independent predictors with a 95% confidence interval. The significance of the Adjusted Odds Ratio (AOR) was declared at p-value <0.05.

According to the literature on this operational definition was taken to make measurable our study [9,10].

**Knowledge:** From the major questions on the knowledge part, each of those who have answered above the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile (out of 23 questionnaires, who answered 13 and above) of the score were considered to be having adequate knowledge. The rest were categorized as insufficient knowledge.

**Attitude:** Respondents who answered above the mean range (out of 9 questionnaires, who answered 5 and above) correctly will be considered as favorable attitude. Those individuals who gave a correct answer below the mean range will be considered as an unfavorable attitude towards blood donation.

**Practice:** Individuals experienced blood donation activity at least once in their lifetime will be considered as having practice.

**Voluntary donors:** Those individuals who donate blood without receiving payment or a replacement for family or friends, but only for an internally generated sense of altruism or community responsibility.

The ethical review and approval commute of health Science College, Assosa University approved the study for its ethical and scientific merit. Informed verbal consent was also obtained from the respective students for their participation after the nature of the study was fully explained in their local languages. The right to withdraw from the study at any time was also communicated and respected. And also the confidentiality of information was maintained in each level of the response including omitting personal identifiers such as the name and identification number or ID No of participants.

**Table 1:** Socio-demographic characteristics of graduating class students in Assosa University in 2018.

Variable	Frequencies	Percentage %
<b>Age</b>		
18-25 years	305	0.913
26-35 years	29	0.087
<b>Sex</b>		
Male	181	54.2
Female	153	45.8
<b>Collage of respondent</b>		
Engineering collage	99	29.6
Health since collage	10	3
Agricultural collage	48	14.4
Business and economics collage	52	15.6
Social science and humanity collage	46	14.4
School of law	8	2.4
Natural and computational collage	43	12.9
Computing and informatics collage	26	7.8
<b>Religion</b>		
Orthodox	222	65.5
Muslim	58	17.4
Protestant	51	15.3
Other <sup>s</sup>	3	0.9
<b>Where are you come /Residence</b>		
Urban	152	45.5
Rural	182	54.5
<b>Are you use social media</b>		
Yes	318	95.2
No	16	4.8
<b>Which type of social media</b>		
Internet	236	74.2
Television	105	33
Radio/FM	109	34.2
Newspaper	47	14.8
Others <sup>ss</sup>	2	0.6

Other<sup>s</sup>= wake feta; Catholic. Other<sup>ss</sup>=film

## Results

### Socio-demographic characteristics

A total of 334 (96.5%) graduating class students were participated from 346 of the proposed sample size with a non-response rate of 3.5% due to un-availability on time of data collection. Concerning sex composition of study participants, 181 (54.2%) of them were male and 153 (45.8%) were female and the mean age of the respondent was 23.02 years old which ranges from 20 years to 30 years. Regarding religion 222 (66.5%) of the respondents were Orthodox followed by Muslim and protestant 58 (17.4%) and 51 (15.3%) respectively and others 3 (0.9%).

Almost all of the respondents 318 (95.2%) were familiar and use social media. Among 8 collage, the proportion of engineering collage was highest which accounts, 99 (29.6%) compared to the school of law 10 (2.4%) were included in this study which was directly proportional

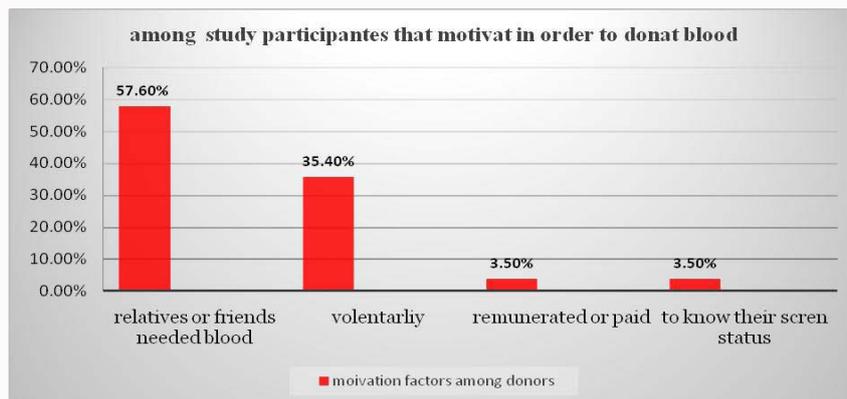


Figure 2: Motivational factors among blood donors in order to donate blood.

to the source population (Table 1).

**Knowledge of study participants towards voluntary blood donation**

In this study, 162 (48.5%) had adequate knowledge of blood donation. Among the study participants, 255 (76.3%) know about the common blood group, from this one hundred forty-three 56.1% of them get information from the classroom followed by on internet 119 (46.6%). Around 241 (72.2%) of respondents know the medical benefit of VBD and three fourth 223 (66.8%) of them say no human blood manufactured artificially in the laboratory. But only 127 (38.0%) of respondents know the minimum time interval between two donations and 97 (29.0%) of them know the volume of blood donation at a time.

**Factors associated with knowledge of respondent about voluntary blood donation**

This study revealed that the level of good knowledge towards blood donation among graduating class students age, sex, religion, residence, and newspaper redder didn't show any significant in bivariate analysis (p-value >0.2) and didn't include in the multi-variant analysis. Also, collage of study, use of social media, television user, and radio/FM users show significant association in bi-vibrant but not in multi-variant analysis. Multiple logistic regression analysis factors significantly predictive level of knowledge of blood donation among internet users. Bing non-user of the internet was 1.764 times more likely (AOR=1.764, 95% CI: 1.029, 3.026) having inadequate knowledge than when compared to the internet user (Table 2).

**The attitude of the study participants towards voluntary blood donation**

Among the overall respondents 207 (62.0%) said blood donation is good habit, 79 (23.6%) of them thinks bad and 48 (14.4%) of them say no idea. Around the mean range 168 (50.3%) of study participants respond as voluntary blood donation is the best source of blood donation.

The overall attitude of individuals towards voluntary blood donation was assessed by summing up the correct answers of individual questions and from the total participant three fourth 230 (68.9%) of the respondent had favorable attitude towards blood donation whereas 104 (31.1%) unfavorable attitude.

**Factors associated with attitude towards voluntary blood donation**

In bivariate logistic regression age, internet user, and level of

knowledge were shows significantly associated with the attitude of the participants towards VBD, while in multivariate logistic regression internet user doesn't significantly associate with VBD. When you see the level of knowledge, inadequate knowledge, was 2.098 times having an unfavorable attitude towards VBD (AOR=2.098, 95% CI: 1.281, 3.437) when compared to having adequate knowledge and. Also, Bing increases the age of respondents from 26 years to 35 years was 2.393 times having an unfavorable attitude (AOR=2.393, 95% CI: 1.051, 5.449) towards VBD when compared with age between 18 years to 25 years (Table 3).

**The practice of blood donation towards voluntary blood donation**

Among the total participant of graduating class students, only around one quarter, 85 (25.4%) have ever donated blood and of these 53 (62.4%) of donors had donated blood once in their lifetime, 19 (22.4%), 9 (10.6%), and 4 (4.7%) of them donate blood twice, three times and four times, but no one donor donate blood either regularly or greater than four times.

Regarding reasons that motivate for blood donation, greater than the mean range, 49 (57.6%) of the total donors said that donation could be for helping relatives or friends. From donors, the majority 77 (90.6%) of them were satisfied to do so. Concerning reasons for non-donating among non-donors 249, 112 (45.0%) of them side fear of knowing their screen status followed by 106 (42.6%) of them side donated blood may be sold were mentioned as major reasons for not donating blood. Satisfactorily majority of study participants 263 (78.7%) of them were having the interest to donate blood in the future. We can see details from Figure 2 about the reason that makes study participants do donate blood.

**Factors associated with voluntary blood donation practice**

The likelihood of blood donation in bi-variant analysis sex, age, religion, the residence where you come, and collage (field of study) didn't show significance association towards VBD practice (p-value >0.2) and didn't include from a multivariate regression analysis. A multivariate analysis on blood donation practice revealed that a statistically significant association with television user, attitude and knowledge level of respondent. Being a user of television 2.015 times more likely non-donors of blood (AOR= 2.015, 95% CI: 1.100, 3.690) than compared to non-user but internet and radio/FM user didn't show statistically significant association with VBD. When you compared to the knowledge and attitude towards practice, both having inadequate knowledge 3.118 times non-donors (AOR=3.118,

**Table 2:** Factors associated with knowledge level of graduating class students towards blood donation in 2018.

Variable	Overall Knowledge				
	Inadequate knowledge	Adequate knowledge	COR (95% CI)	AOR (95% CI)	P-value
<b>Collage/faculty</b>					
Engineering	50	49	1		
Health science	1	9	0.109 (0.013,0.892)	z	Z
Agricultural	30	18	1.633 (0.807,3.305)	z	
Business and economics	26	26	0.980 (0.501,1.918)	z	
Social science and humanity	21	27	0.762 (0.381,1.524)	z	
School of law	4	4	0.980 (0.232,4.140)	z	
Computing and informatics	14	12	1.143 (0.481,2.718)	z	
Natural and computational	26	17	1.499 (0.724,3.102)	z	
<b>Use of social media</b>					
Yes	159	159	1		Z
No	13	3	4.333 (1.211,15.500)	Z	
<b>Internet user</b>					
yes	108	128	1	1	0.039***
No	51	31	1.950 (1.165,3.262)	1.764 (1.029,3.026)	
<b>Television user</b>					
Yes	47	58	1		Z
No	112	101	1.368 (0.856,2.188)	z	
<b>Radio/FM user</b>					
yes	63	46	1		Z
No	96	113	0.620 (0.389,0.990)	z	

Z: Factors associated in bi-variant but not in multi-variant analysis. \*\*\*: Variables show significant association on both bi vibrant and multi variant analysis

**Table 3:** Factor associated with attitude of among study participant towards VBD in 2018.

Variable	Overall Attitude				
	Unfavorable attitude	Favorable attitude	COR (95% CI)	AOR (95% CI)	P-value
<b>Age</b>					
18-25 years	89	216	1	1	0.048***
26-35 years	14	15	2.600 (1.205,5.611)	2.393 (1.051,5.449)	
<b>Internet user</b>					
yes	66	170	1		z
no	31	51	1.566 (0.922,2.658)		
<b>Level of knowledge</b>					
Adequate knowledge	37	125	1	1	0.003***
In adequate know ledged	67	105	2.156 (1.337,3.477)	2.098 (1.281,3.437)	

Z: Factors associated in bi-variant but not in multi-variant; \*\*\*: Variables show significant association on both bi vibrant and multi variant analysis

95% CI: 1.775, 5.479), and unfavorable attitude 4.254 times non-donors (AOR=4.254, 95% CI: 1.996, 9.069) than compared to those adequate knowledge and favorable attitude respectively (Table 4).

### Discussion

One of the visions of WHO by 2020 counters to achieve 100% voluntary non-remunerated blood donation in every country of the world but concurrently, blood donor recruitment becomes more difficult and a global issue particularly in developing countries at

the same time the demand for blood products steadily increases. Therefore, understanding the level of knowledge, attitude, practice, and associated factor towards voluntary blood donation is essential and this study found out the level of Knowledge Attitude Practice (KAP) with respective of associated factors towards voluntary blood donation among graduating class students in Assosa University.

In this study, 162 (48.5%) had adequate knowledge towards blood donation which is less knowledgeable than compared study

**Table 4:** Factors associated with practice of voluntary blood donation among graduating class students in 2018.

Variable	Blood Donation Practice				
	Non-donor	donor	COR (95% CI)	AOR (95% CI)	p-value
<b>Internet user</b>					
Yes	170	66	1		z
No	65	17	1.484 (0.811,2.718)	z	
<b>Television user</b>					
Yes	85	20	1.785 (1.010,3.153)	2.015(1.100,3.690)	0.023***
No	150	63	1	1	
<b>Radio/FM user</b>					
Yes	88	21	1.767 (1.009,3.097)		z
No	147	62	1	z	
<b>Level of knowledge</b>					
Adequate knowledge	103	59	1	1	0.000***
In adequate know ledged	146	26	3.217 (1.901,5.442)	3.118 (1.775,5.479)	
<b>Attitude of respondent</b>					
Favorable attitude	154	76	1	1	0.000***
Unfavorable attitude	95	9	5.209 (2.494,10.882)	4.254 (1.996,9.069)	

Z: Factors associated in bi-variant but not in multi-variant. \*\*\*: Variables show significant association on both bi vibrant and multi variant analysis

conducted Samara university health science student which is 54%, health science students of Addis Ababa University 121 (83.7%), and study conducted at Nigeria which is 64.8% of the respondents had good knowledge about blood donation respectively [9-12]. This might be due to the study population difference. The previous study conducted only health science, students. But in our study, participants selected from both health and non-health since students. The current study revealed that the level of knowledge towards voluntary blood donation was higher when you compared to study conducted among Ambo University about 161 (40.4%) had good knowledge and study conducted in bachelor level students in Nepal which were average score was 32.01% had good knowledge about blood donation [13,14]. This might be due to time and socio-demographic difference respectively. Ambo University study was conducted in 2014 and In this study 223 (66.8%) of respondent say no human blood manufactured artificially in the laboratory that means answered correctly which is higher study conducted in India college students of both health and non-health science students 40 (63%) of health science student respond "no artificial blood" i.e. has good knowledge about artificial and 88 (59.9%) of non-health students think that there is artificial blood available [15]. This might be due to socio-demographic differences. And also in this study, only 97 (29.0%) of them know the volume of blood donation which is less than compared to study conducted in Samara University health science student (54.6%) of individuals know the volume of blood donated during each donation and study conducted Addis Ababa university (8.6%) of respondents didn't know the maximum amount of blood to be donated respectively [10,11]. This might be due to study population difference. The previous study conducted only health science, students. But study participants selected from both health and non-health science students.

From the total participant, three fourth 230 (68.9%) of the respondent had favorable attitude towards blood donation which is almost similar with study conducted in Addis Ababa university 68% of the participants had favorable attitude and study conducted in samara university health science student which is 65.8% of respondents (61.0% to 71.0%) had favorable attitude towards VBD [9,11]. This

study was higher than study conducted in ambo university student which is 189 (47.4%) had positive attitude towards voluntary blood donation with the 95% CI of 42.4% to 52.4% and study conducted in two public and one private medical college in Karachi, Pakistan which is 252 (42.00%) had positive attitude towards blood donation [13,16]. This might be due to time, social, and cultural deference among study participants respectively. And at the same time, this study was higher than the study conducted in Debre-Markos 403 (52.2%) of respondents had a favorable attitude towards blood donation [17]. But the result of this study less than the study conducted in Gondar town which is 630 (82%), of the respondents had a good attitude towards blood donation [18]. This difference may be due to the study population difference. Both studies were conducted at Gondar and Debre-Markos town which was at the community level but this study was conducted among graduating class students.

Among the total participant of graduating class students, only around one quarter, 85 (25.4%) have ever donated blood which is almost similar in study conducted in Addis Ababa University 90 (23.4%) have ever donated blood and study conducted ambo university which is 94 (23.6%) of the study participants were donated blood at least one times [11,13]. But this study was less compared to study conducted samara university health science students which is 252 (32.6%) has ever donated blood at least once in their lifetime [9]. This might be due to knowledge and attitude difference of study population difference. The previous study conducted only health science, students. But in our study, participants selected from both health and non-health since students.

This study showed that the frequency of blood donation was 53 (62.4%) of donors had donated blood once in their lifetime among the total donor, 19 (22.4%), 9 (10.6%), and 4 (4.7%) of them donate blood twice, three times and four times respectively which is higher than study conducted from 216 university students of medial income country which is 10% had donated for once, 8.5% two times, 1% three times, 1.5% four times [19]. This might be due to study population coverage which means the previous study conducted on medial income counters that include different counters but this

study conducted only among graduating class students of Assosa University.

In this study showed that no one donor donate blood five times or more which is less than study conducted from 216 university students of medial income country which is 2.5% at least five times and study conducted in Addis Ababa university students which are 38 (42.2%) of them were a regular donor [11,19]. This might be due to difference socio-demographic characteristics of study population.

Concerning reasons for non-donating among non-donors 249, 112 (45.0%) of them side fear of knowing their screen status followed by 106 (42.6%) of them side donated blood may be sold were mentioned as major reasons for not donating blood which is differ from study conducted at King Abdul-Aziz Medical City (KAMC) in Saudi Arabia which is more than half of them (52.4%) mentioned that blood donation did not think in their minds and 45% mentioned that they had no time for donation while 41.3% mentioned that they had difficulty in accessing blood donation center as major reason and study conducted in ambo university which is 94 (23.6) were due to fear or pain, 70 (17.5%) were due to safety reasons, also study conducted in Addis Ababa university student which is lack of information 68.4%, not asked to donate 66.7% [11,13].

In this study, sex doesn't show any significant association with attitude on both bi-vibrant and multi-variant analysis which but it shows a significant study conducted in Addis Ababa University which is. Being male increased odds of favorable attitude AOR (95% CI) =2.2 (1.4, 3.6) this might be due to sex proportion of study population, this study was around men range 181 (54.2%) of them were male and 153 (45.8%) were female [11].

Both having inadequate knowledge 3.118 times non-donors (AOR=3.118, 95% CI: 1.775, 5.479), and unfavorable attitude 4.254 times non-donors [AOR=4.254, 95% CI: 1.996, 9.069] than compared to those adequate knowledge and favorable attitude respectively which is almost similar study conducted in ambo university which is who had good knowledge were 2.96 times (AOR (95% CI), 2.96 (1.78-4.92)) more likely to be practice as compared to less knowledgeable respondents [13].

When you see the level of knowledge, inadequate knowledge, was 2.098 times having unfavorable attitude towards VBD (AOR=2.098, 95% CI: 1.281, 3.437) when you compared to having adequate knowledge which is almost similar when you compared to study conducted samara university health since students which is who had inadequate knowledge 0.45 times (AOR, (95% CI), 0.45 (0.258, 0.790)) less likely to had favorable attitude towards voluntary blood donation as compared to adequate knowledge and study conducted in ambo university which is who had good knowledge 2.16 times (AOR, (95% CI), 2.16 (1.4, 3.35) more likely to had positive attitude towards voluntary blood donation as compared to less knowledge [9,13].

In this study, being a user of television 2.015 times more likely non-donors of blood (AOR=2.015, 95% CI: 1.100, 3.690) than compared to non-user. This finding supported by research conducted on Blood Donors' Clinic of Delaware (BBD). According to this, psychological stress increased among television user than non-users and television users mainly concern game show, soap operas, commercials and resining or action movies, and no channel channels with continues news but no- television users are blank monitor and no sound [20].

## Conclusion

This study revealed that there was a low incidence of blood donation practice in our study area even though WHO recommends this, being a user of the internet was significantly associated with having adequate knowledge towards blood donation.

Having adequate knowledge and increasing the age of respondents were the independent predictors towards the favorable attitude of the respondent towards VBD. Having adequate knowledge, favorable attitude towards blood donation independent predictors of blood donation practice, also non-user of television increase blood donation practice more often so we recommend creating a regular promotion, organize mobile blood back service and further study on this area.

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## Authors' Contributions

Birhanu Ayenew, conceived and designed the study, performed analysis and interpretation of data and drafted the manuscript. Mulugeta Admasu, supervised the design, Conception, analysis, interpretation of data and made critical comments at each step of research. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

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