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Student's device to detect cancer wins laurels



Fruit of labour: Chitra Thyagarajan Iyer with her cancer detection kit. Photo: K. Manikandan

K. Manikandan

An engineering student's creation of a working kit to detect cancer has won laurels at many national and State-level contests.

Chitra Thyagarajan Iyer, hailing from Villupuram, is a final year student of Velammal Engineering College in the city.

Her creation of Bio-Electrographic Kirlion Camera is the result of several months of research and hard work. "My cousin died of cancer in 2009 when she was just 24 years old. Had cancer been detected on time, we could have saved her," says Ms. Chitra and that is the reason behind her creating a cancer detection kit, despite coming from an engineering background.

Explaining how her kit works, she says that a camera, normally used in conventional closed circuit television systems is installed inside a Central Processing Unit of a camera.

On the principles of biometric fingerprint recording, the signals discharged from the fingerprint embedded in the glass are received by the camera. This 'coronary discharge' is reflected on the screen. Explaining further, Chitra says that she had installed a step-up transformer and the power supply was increased from 200 volts.

“At high voltage and high frequency, it is possible to record the coronary discharge of a person from his or her hands,” she points out.

Chitra elaborates that under the principle of Kirlian Photography, it is possible to record the coronary discharge as a result of certain abnormalities in a person which in turn affects his or her metabolic rates. Current methods of cancer detection kits either have cumbersome procedures or are expensive.

Her kit, which can be improvised, will be easy to use and is cost-effective. She will be approaching the industry and people involved in cancer care to get her cancer detection kit validated. With support from her parents and her college management, she has been able to design the kit, which proved to be a winner at national technical festivals in educational institutions, including Anna University.

Her father is a central government employee in Tiruchi. She lives with her elder sister, Bala, a software professional in Chromepet. She can be reached at 97895 75136.