

Categorie Premio	Accessibilità	Sostenibilità	Qualità della vita

Product Name	Low Cost self-diagnosis tool
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Description of innovation social values

- product category
- formal and functional features
- problems solved by innovation
- user
- field of application

Product category: Mechanical self-diagnosis tool aimed to capture symptoms of patients in rural India & provide them basic information about their disease. Helps them decide on right time to go to a qualified doctor & avoid wrong self medication. It can also be used to ease the load of doctor in case of heavy queuing in clinics

Features: Providing relevant information – With simple rotation of rings & mapping on the chart, the tool provides criticality of disease, basic suggestions (like - 'how soon to meet the doctor?') 2. Kind of diagnostic tests would be done on them (this is based on the research finding that the villagers are quite suspicious of blood being used for testing & also unprepared for the expense which tests might require) 3. Cases in which they should meet a specialist directly instead of going to a general practitioner 4. Information & contact numbers of healthcare providers

Innovation: Is in the fact that we could use the existing knowledge of doctors to come up with a simple low cost mechanical interface which we believe could have a huge impact on how healthcare is provided to the rural patients

Field of usage/users:

1. Every home in the village
2. Doctor's clinics: By reducing time per patient. Since most symptoms can be captured by the tool while waiting in the queue, the patient can go inside the doctor's cabin with the tool, in which all his symptoms are already captured. The doctor can spend his time more effectively, in asking the other relevant questions. It can also be used by non profit organizations and self help groups
3. Exciting scaling possibilities – With stickers in different languages the tool is ready for use in all parts of India
4. Helping women: From our initial testing we realised that women were overjoyed with such a tool as it helped them to check their diseases in private (in India there is a lack of empathy for women related healthcare and social issues)

Description of technical features

- operations
- technology

Constitution: The tool consists of set of Rings(symptoms), a disease chart & other information. These rings could be made of cheap but durable card board

Usage: Each ring has set of symptoms. Patient rotates the rings(starting from smallest) & chooses his symptoms by bringing them in one line, below the marker. Each symptom has a number printed on it. User maps the disease code(set of numbers, 1 from each ring) on the chart. The chart provides tentative result – (disease name, severity, next steps, diagnostic tests required to confirm disease, doctor they should meet (i.e. which specialty) & contact information of doctors & hospitals

Dimensions

As the number of rings can be increased or decreased, the dimensions are not fixed. For example, if there are four disease rings then the radius would be 8 cms (2 cm per ring). The thickness will vary with the material used

Materials

Recycled cardboard/plastic

Certifications

Ease of production –Recycled paper can be used to create the tool

Benefits for environment

Benefits for human being

1. Empowering rural Indian patients – Healthcare has not been a priority of rural dwellers in India & they have been used to taking 'over the counter drugs' or getting quick relief in the form of a steroid injection from the unregistered medical paractioners(URMPs)(in villages there are usually no qualified doctors). Though an immediate solution, it is not a correct one, disease symptoms resurface & the patient is rushed to a proper registered doctor in the city, who now administers an emergency case where it could have been a case of normal diagnosis. With the tool, the rural dwellers will be empowered with basic knowledge about their disease & can avoid the mistreatment by URMPS. The tool could also be used by NGO's (non-governmental organizations) and self-help groups (in cases of illiteracy), to increase awareness & help rural patients understand their disease symptoms in a better way
2. Mutual benefit for healthcare providers and patients – The patients save the money and side effects of self medication, time & money both in cases where they don't take proper treatment on time and then have to leave job for the rest needed later. The doctors have increased inflow of patients and thus more usage of our services.