

The New Indian Express 25.08.2009

Woman-centric cancer centre in city

CHENNAI: A woman-centric cancer centre, Penn Nalam, an initiative by the Sri Dhanvantri Trust, was inaugurated by Principal Secretary, Health and Family Welfare Department, V K Subburaj on Monday.

Also, an awareness campaign undertaken by the organisation, which includes prevention, counselling and treatment, was launched by Sarojini Varadappan, Padma Bhushan recipient.

According to a recent survey, in Chennai alone the incidence of breast cancer is about 30.4 persons per one lakh population and the incidence of cervical cancer is about 18.9 persons per one lakh population.

Subburaj said that it was very important to get the disease detected at the earliest. The main reason for cancer is alcohol intake, which badly damages the liver.

Exposure to pollution, radiation and lifestyle changes are some of the main reasons for cancer. He said that cervical cancer does not occur in women suddenly, it develops over a period of

10 years. More than 80% of women come for treatment only during the last stages, when it becomes difficult to be cured. In a study done, it was noted that only 6% women living in urban areas come for screening and in rural areas it is only 3%.