

Hair-raising event for cancer

KAUSHIK J N

19-yr-old leads a campaign in which she and many others will cut their hair or tonsure heads in support of cancer patients

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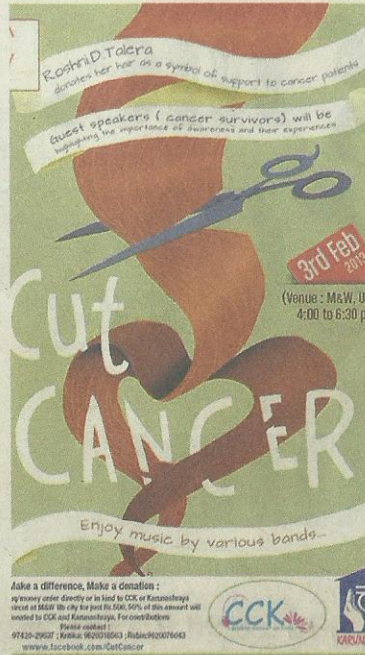
Girls love long hair and the fear of hair loss is one of their constant worries. But in an unselfish gesture, a girl has decided to tonsure her head in support of cancer patients.

On Sunday, Roshni D Talera, a II BBM student of St Joseph's College, will shed her locks at a charity event aptly named 'Cut-a-thon for Cancer Donation'. Besides Roshni, many others are expected to either clip their hair or shave their heads at the event - a brainchild of this 19-year-old girl.

If you're wondering about the connection between cancer and hair, the hair collected at the cut-a-thon will be used for making wigs for cancer patients who have lost hair because of chemotherapy.

Giving details, Dinesh Talera, Roshni's father, told BANGALORE MIRROR: "The event is being organised in support of cancer patients, especially children with curable cancer and the terminally ill patients. Patients who

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The poster announcing 'Cut Cancer', a campaign initiated by Roshni (right)

undergo chemotherapy as part of the treatment face a severe hair loss. By donating hair to the wig makers, she (Roshni) is trying to help them live like 'normal people'."

Although the event has garnered enough attention, it was not easy for Roshni to convince her family members. Asked how she hit upon the idea, she said: "One of my cousins had previously held a similar charity event in

Canada. Initially, my family members were shocked. But I convinced them about the cause and the importance of expressing solidarity with the patients. Besides, two of my cousins had cancer and they recovered from it. I have travelled this far because of their support."

Roshni said she has been to Karunashraya, Kidwai Cancer Foundation and Curable Cancer in Kids (CCK), all agencies working for cancer patients, and interacted with the patients. "I searched on various platforms about the kind of charity that we could do. So many things have been done by others, so we wanted to do something different. Hence we thought of donating hair. Usually, patients are looked down upon and we wanted to convey that being bald is as good as any other style quotient."

Roshni's friends too have joined hands with her.

A couple of college bands will also perform at Sunday's event. About 50-100 people are expected to take part in it, including volunteers, patients, survivors and doctors. Cancer survivors will share their experiences on this platform.

"We have been running a support mobilisation campaign on Facebook by creating a special page 'Cut Cancer'," said Roshni. A message on this page requests people to sign up for the hair cut at a well-known saloon in UB City. Besides the hair, a part of the funds likely to be collected at the event will be donated to Karunashraya and CCK. The event will happen in UB City between 3:30 pm and 6:30 pm.

