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Meghana Choukkar Bengaluru, Oct 05, 2016, DHNS

Award for B'luru student



Twenty-five-year old Bengalurean Upendra Shenoy has designed a coconut grater attachment which could fix your kitchen problems.

A student of product design pursuing master's at the National Institute of Design (NID) in Ahmedabad, he has won the 'Best Innovative Design' award in a contest held by Orient Electric, which will now bring the design to life.

The ergonomically designed grater is a universal attachment which will work for any existing mixer-grinder. The inclined blade runs at a slow RPM with a high torque, making it easier to scrape the coconut flesh. It has an attachment to collect the grated coconut.

Having grown up in a traditional South Indian family, Shenoy had observed that the existing tools for grating coconuts were not ergonomic. "People with arthritis and old people find it difficult to use these instruments because they require a lot of force.

There are manual cranks and attachments on wet grinders but they do not work satisfactorily." Shenoy travelled in the southern states that use coconut prominently in their cuisine to understand what the problem was with existing tools. With a background in mechanical engineering from Amrita Institute Of Technology and Science, Bengaluru, he had worked with automobile designs in the past. "It was a challenging shift because in this sector you need to think about the user and how they would interact with the product," he said.

Shenoy applied his understanding of automobiles to his design, using an RPM-reducing mechanism and materials that would keep the product light. For the safety of users, the blade does not rotate unless pressure is applied.

The research and development team of Orient Electric will now work with Shenoy to create the product for consumer use. This was the second edition of the competition by the company in which it invited design and engineering students to submit their concepts for improving electrical home appliances. More than 600 students from colleges across the country took part in the finals held in the first week of September in New Delhi.