

## Physically challenged students set to turn entrepreneurs

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**Vazhithala:** Thirty physically challenged students here have developed a portal which will enable them to turn entrepreneurs and be independent.

The students were given a year-long training by the Sharjah headquartered International Management consultancy service provider, Support Links Worldwide under an entrepreneurial training initiative-- 'Mission Employment' for the physically challenged persons.

It was launched in August last year in association with Santhigiri College of Computer Sciences at Vazhithala in Idukki district. Activity based training to develop leadership skills and improving communication skills was imparted, says, Saji Itoop Thomas, Director of Support Links.

The training has seen a world of difference among the students, who were shy, uncommunicative and self conscious about their disability, he said.

They have developed portal-- bslips.com, an Internet based data reservoir that provided listing of businesses and professionals to enable easy access for customers to avail services. The portal will be launched soon.

Sherin Joseph (32), was a nursing student at Mumbai's Jaslok Hospital in 2002, when fate willed it otherwise.

"I had lot of dreams and ambition. I was a good at academics, had lots of friends and loved shopping. But one day on her way to hospital I tried to cross a railway track, slipped and fell on the track, which totally turned my life upside down," she says.

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