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Physically challenged to be trained as entrepreneurs

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Kochi, May 28: Sharjah-headquartered leading International Management consultancy service provider, Support Links Worldwide, will soon be launching an entrepreneurial training initiative-- 'Mission Employment' in Kerala for physically challenged persons.

The initiative, to be launched in July, is in association with the Santhigiri College of Computer Sciences in Vazhithala in Kerala's Idukki District, Col Babu Pappachan, CEO of the project told a press meet in Kochi on Wednesday.

The pilot project offers a one year residential training programme for about 60 selected physically challenged persons in two batches of 30 students. A team of international trainers from the global business front would be imparting the training.

Activity based training would be provided to develop leadership skills, besides training for improving communication skills. Training and accommodation would be entirely free.

On successful completion of their training, the participants would be equipped to undertake business ventures of their own or take up lucrative assignments in leading establishments. Support Links Worldwide would also help provide suitable placements and self-employment opportunities for them, Saji Ittoop Thomas, Director Marketing, said.

The physically challenged can be effectively trained and developed to undertake business ventures on their own and get suitably employed, he said.

The project is expected to promote the power of teamwork and to instil in the physically challenged persons the need for playing a more active and responsible role within and outside their segment.

The minimum qualification for the candidate is a pass in 10th standard and good understanding of English. Those who have higher qualification would be given priority, Thomas said.

He said the participants for the training could be between 18-45 years. The students would be selected on the basis of their performance in a written test and interview.

On successful completion of the training, the participants would be equipped to undertake business ventures of their own to provide additional employment within and outside their communities. Total cost of the training would be about Rs 3 crore, he said.

On successful completion of the pilot project, programmes for the rehabilitation of physically challenged, widows and single mothers, prisoners and Aids, disaster and war victims would be launched.

The pilot project would be funded through sponsorships and donations.