

Akshaya to offer Intel course

Special Correspondent

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: Akshaya, a project of Kerala IT aimed at bridging the digital divide, will now provide Intel Education Initiative's latest Technology & Entrepreneurship course through its 2,200 customer service centres across the State.

The curriculum was launched by Intel's Regional Director, Corporate Affairs, (Asia-Pacific), Anjan Ghosh here on Tuesday. Akshaya and Intel's Learning Initiative team jointly took the decision after their successful association resulting in imparting e-literacy to 86,000 students in the 8-16 age group.

Participating in grassroots stakeholder roundtable here, Mr. Ghosh said: "Our association with Kerala IT has reaped huge benefits not just for students in the State, but also for Intel's learning initiative. The whole programme and its execution through various Akshaya centres have been a learning experience for us on how non-formal education system has a better and far reach through the right platform and is something that we can take back and try to implement in other

Asia-Pacific countries as well."

He said Intel hoped to replicate this success in the entrepreneurship space, using the new course as a vehicle to empower women of the State.

Ishita Roy, Director, Kerala State IT Mission, said: "Having empowered a section of the State populace through the Intel Learn programme, our next step is to take this association to the next level and encourage entrepreneurship among youngsters aged between 18 and 25 years. The new curriculum being introduced through Akshaya is a step in this direction. We are also working on getting this course certified by Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU)."

"Intel's Learn programme has been a major trigger in the growth and sustainability of Akshaya to what it is today. This has also inspired us into looking at various effective learning methodologies and work towards empowering the citizens of the State through the Akshaya network," said Akshaya Director Korath V. Mathew.

The roundtable had various presentations on how ICT can enable major growth in various sectors in the State.