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Technopark firms join anti-HIV drive

Staff Reporter

To include related module in staff induction programme

KSACS, GTECH join hands in venture

Bias against HIV+ persons to be addressed

Thiruvananthapuram: The companies in Technopark will include a module on HIV/AIDS in their staff induction and training programmes, it was decided in the first consultative meeting on HIV Prevention Initiatives at Workplaces, jointly organised by the Kerala State AIDS Control Society (KSACS) and GTECH – The Group of Technopark companies.

Inaugurating the meeting, Project Director of KSACS Usha Titus said that it was important to mainstream HIV through workplace initiatives and public-private partnership could go a long way in spreading the message on HIV. She also sought the active involvement of Technopark companies and its employees in forming Red Ribbon Clubs to promote voluntary blood donation.

Through workplace initiatives, KSACS is looking at forming partnerships to ensure that every organisation has a policy regarding HIV/AIDS. Such partnerships will also address issues of discrimination faced by HIV-positive persons at workplaces. KSACS will provide technical support to companies for any initiatives in this direction.

Satish Kumar Amarnath, Advisor, Microbiology department, Manipal College of Medical Sciences, who led a technical session pointed out that HIV was indeed everyone's business and that no persons or groups were free from risk.

Presentations were made on stigma reduction, challenges in implementing workplace initiatives. Those who led the sessions included Rita Cross, Joint Director (Care and Support), KSACS, K.B. Sudhir, team leader (Mainstreaming), KSACS, Binu Sankar, CEO, GTECH and S. K. Harikumar, consultant (Behaviour and Sexuality).

A programme protocol and workplan for the joint initiative will be discussed at the next meeting of the CEOs of Technopark companies.

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