

# Banyan to help groom management gurus

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**S**OON, future management gurus would be sensitised to social issues through a specially designed curriculum. The Banyan Academy of Leadership in Mental Health (BALM) in collaboration with the Institute for Financial Management and Research (IFMR) has launched a curriculum to expose management students to ground-level activities.

The initiative aims at creating the next generation of leaders in the development sector. While IFMR will provide the practice base for the students, BALM will provide the field level activities.

Vandana Gopikumar, founder trustee, the Banyan and BALM said, "The students will be exposed to the actuals in the development sector. We want to attract a fresh breed of people to the field."

Students of the two-year postgraduate diploma in Business Management at IFMR will be offered this specialisation in social development, depending on the skills they required. The curriculum will offer inputs in mental health, social development and research, organisation and management, entrepreneurship/leadership.

"Our aim is to introduce skills of management, finance and economy to train people to become effective managers in the non-profit sector," said Chandrasekar, dean-academic affair, IFMR. The partnership looks at enabling a person to com-

bine his/her knowledge and technical competence, implement it and upscale the level of operations. "It will also include well-versed strategic planning, impact assessment, scalability and replicability," added Gopikumar. During the first year, there will be short-term modules and orientation programme. The second year will focus on mental health, social development and NGO management.

For field-level activities, the students will be placed in the various centres of Banyan. The students can later work in NGOs, corporates or start their own NGOs. Supriya Sahu, project director of TN State AIDS Control Society, film director Mani Ratnam, also trustee of BALM, Vaghul, chairman of ICICI Bank, Nachiket Mor, deputy managing director, ICICI bank, Bharat Raman, trustee of BALM, and Vaishnavi Jayakumar, founder trustee of Banyan were also present.

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