

THE HINDU , 5 JAN '12

All-women batch completes computerised plumbing course

Staff Reporter

KOLLAM: An all-women batch of students has graduated from a computerised plumbing course conducted by the Amrita University.

The course follows the government-approved Modular Employable Skills syllabus.

It was developed by the Amrita Multi-Modal Applications using Computer Human Interaction (AMMACHI) labs.

The batch comprised seven married women from lower middle-class families in the age group of 31 to 49, and a majority of them belong to the Scheduled communities.

They are all working as apprentice plumbers now, the university said in a statement.

According to the university, it was the first time in the country that an all-women batch was completing the course.

Certificates awarded

Certificates of the university were awarded to these women on Wednesday by Dilip Chenoy, managing director of the National Skill Development Corporation, a public-private-partnership set up by the Union Ministry of Finance. Mr. Chenoy was at the university to address an

international conference on "Technology enhancement education."

In his address, Mr. Chenoy said there was an urgent need to develop appropriate technology to ensure inexpensive vocational training.

He said the present gap in the demand and supply scene of skilled personnel should be bridged through the partnership activity of academic institutions, industry, and local governments.

Workshop

As part of the international conference, a workshop on "Haptics and computerised learning for skill develop-

ment in vocational education" was conducted.

The application of haptics (science of applying touch sensation and control to interaction with computer applications) to vocational education minimises the need for materials and tools. Individuals gain the experience of working on virtual equipment without risking damage to self or the equipment.

Demonstration

At the workshop, the women who graduated demonstrated how to troubleshoot common household plumbing problems.