Teachers brush up their English skills

Panvel: Around 23 teachers from Zilla Parishad schools of Panvel taluka attended a training programme where they got a chance to brush up their English language skills. The unique e-training programme was conducted by the ITM Business School, Kharghar, in association with the Bombay Community Public Trust, a Mumbai-based non-profit organisation. School principals now have decided to implement the e-teaching programme in their schools which will be free of cost.

The programme can turn out to be successful for students, since majority of them go to vernacular-medium schools, where there is an acute shortage of teachers proficient in English,” said Dr CS Adhikari, dean, ITM Business School.

He added, “Most of the students in government schools are from poor families and they are unable to communicate in English. This factor proves to be a disadvantage for them in their professional lives.”

The training programme, conducted for free, has been designed well to match with the syllabus of Zilla Parishad School. The e-teaching project was aimed at to make government school students to get quality, technology-based teaching aids according to their syllabus.

The programme requires a TV set and a DVD player to carry out the training for teachers and students. “At present, 15 out 23 Zilla Parishad schools in the region are having TV sets. The rest will be provided the facility with the help of NGOs and CSR,” said Adhikari. The e-training programme is completely free and neither school nor students have to shell out money.

The programme was first launched in around 300 schools of Wada Taluka of Thane district in May 2012 and there has been an encouraging response as around 202 schools are using the e-teaching DVD for teaching English language to children. “With the success of programme in Thane, we have decided to make the programme accessible to teachers and students in Panvel region as part of our social responsibility,” said Adhikari.

Meena Yadav, block education officer who made the teachers come together for the training programme, said, “It is said that children readily learn languages between the age of four and six. The project commences teaching from the class I.”