

SENIOR CITIZENS MAY NOW LOG IN FOR A SECOND CAREER

It's time the city's educated senior citizens received an opportunity to work after retirement and give back to society. And it's time to spread this idea to the rest of the country as well.

In a first-of-its-kind initiative in the city, a Mumbai-based NGO will conduct training for 'Senior Citizens only' in three centres for two months. The Sterlite Foundation, which works to educate the underprivileged, took on this project in association with the Silver Innings Foundation (SIF), which works against elders' abuse and classes are expected to start from July 1 next month.

The training will include basic working knowledge in hardware, Desk Top Publishing (DTP), Tally and Retail at a fee of Rs 100 per month and classes thrice a week. "Senior citizens must be familiar with computers and the technological advances



POWER FOR ALL

■ Sailesh Mishra of Silver Innings Foundation has written to Microsoft, asking the company to develop senior-citizen friendly software.

that go with them. Not only will the knowledge keep them occupied, it will also yield opportunities for retired senior citizens to have a second career," said Sailesh Mishra of SIF.

In fact, the key requirement for enrolment is that the appli-

cant must be over 50 years old with or without an educational qualification.

"The long term idea is that senior citizens can upgrade their skills and help others learn computers," said Mishra. "The basic training would be useful in helping them overcome their phobia, if any, of technology," he went on to stress.

If successful, Sterlite hopes to replicate the pilot project in other parts of the country. "We would be training senior citizens and help them find work opportunities in fields that are in demand," an official from the NGO said. "From customer relationship management to managing accounts for companies to even designing - these are fields that require manpower constantly and senior citizen sector can plug this need," Mishra pointed out.

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