

MKCL to promote research

Swati Shinde, TNN September 2009

PUNE: In order to motivate students into taking up research as a career, the Maharashtra Knowledge Commission Limited (MKCL) will soon launch a programme whereby scholarships will be awarded to students who want to pursue research activities.

The scholars will be part of the Maharashtra Olympiad Scholars, another programme of the MKCL.

Speaking to TOI on Tuesday, programme co-ordinator Yashodhan Kale said, "Every year, we select around 35 students for our Olympiad programme. However, we aim to nurture them further and develop their interest in research and eventually motivate them to take up a career in this field."

The programme aims at supporting these students to do research in basic sciences. These students will be given small projects every month and will be guided all along.

"When we took these students to the Bhabha Atomic Research Centres in Mumbai, they were not very confident with experiments. Hence, we felt that their research capability needs to be developed," Kale said.

The programme also aims at funding these students after their graduation. "For example, a student takes up engineering after standard XII, but wants to return to do research in basic sciences after the course. The MKCL will take him/her under its ambit. It will pay them the same remuneration as offered by the company the student got placed with and tie them up to do research with premiere institutes like the National Chemical Laboratory."

The programme will be launched by the end of this year and the MKCL wants to encourage at least five research fellows annually. "We are tapping students at a very young age, so that the interest is developed from the very beginning and they further take it up as a career," Kale added.