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## Symbiosis Launches Financial and Employability Training for Underprivileged Graduates

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In a move aimed at promoting financial independence and employment among underserved youth, Symbiosis International (Deemed University) has partnered with the Dharavi Redevelopment Project (DRP) to roll out a four-month residential training program for college graduates from Dharavi, one of Asia’s most densely populated informal settlements.

Set to begin on August 5 at Symbiosis' Lavale campus in Pune, the program will provide 100 selected students with intensive upskilling across several core areas: communication, project management, data analysis, and financial literacy. The training is fully funded by the DRP, covering accommodation, meals, and educational materials for the entire duration.

This initiative is a strategic response to the employment challenges faced by young graduates from low-income urban areas. While many possess formal degrees, they often lack access to practical training and industry-relevant skills that employers seek. Symbiosis' course aims to close that gap and help participants enter India's evolving digital economy with greater confidence and capability.

“This is not just an education program—it's an investment in human capital,” said Dr. Vidya Yeravdekar, Pro Chancellor of Symbiosis, as quoted by *NDTV*. She emphasized that the curriculum was developed in consultation with industry leaders to ensure real-world application and long-term employability.

Dharavi, often referred to as a microcosm of informal entrepreneurship, is home to thousands of small-scale businesses. However, formal employment remains limited, especially for the younger generation. By targeting soft skills, financial awareness, and digital tools, the Symbiosis initiative seeks to create upward economic mobility for its participants.

The program also reveals a broader trend of academic institutions stepping into workforce development, particularly for populations historically excluded from mainstream financial systems. As employers increasingly prioritize job-ready skills over academic credentials alone, such training programs are gaining traction as a bridge between education and economic inclusion.

If successful, this model of public-private collaboration may pave the way for scalable, high-impact interventions focused on skill-building and financial empowerment in underserved communities. Analysts and development experts will be monitoring outcomes closely to gauge their long-term effect on employment and economic participation