

'IT literacy must reach rural areas'

VIJAY TIMES NEWS

Bangalore: Chief Secretary B S Patil on Tuesday prevailed upon software companies and non-Governmental organisations (NGOs) to make greater efforts at improving literacy, particularly computer literacy, in rural areas.

Speaking at the inauguration of the Intel Computer Clubhouse at Jakkur on Wednesday, Patil said, "Karnataka has often been called a software giant. But this IT knowledge has reached only five per cent of the people with the other 95 per cent remaining unaffected by the technological developments."

"These programmes should also look at other backward regions, a little away from Bangalore. Companies and NGOs must realise that Karnataka is bigger than Bangalore. There are other regions in the State that have less than half of these facilities," the Chief Secretary said.

Intel India launched its

computer clubhouse, an after-school programme at the Children's Lovecastles Trust (CLT) in Jakkur village to make the hi-tech equipment accessible to underprivileged youth aged between eight and 18. There are currently 65 such Intel clubhouses in 10 countries.

The basic objective of the project is to enable children from surrounding villages to benefit from technology, said CLT Founder and Managing Trustee Bhagya Rangachar.