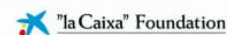


“A MILLION MUTINIES NOW”

- V.S. Naipaul

The moment this dance began, it brought community members of a village in Uttar Pradesh together. It symbolises the spirit of youth, solidarity and the power of human connections – attributes we aim to nurture to unleash local micro-movements through social innovation.



A webinar on Youth-led Innovations to support Green Jobs

Youth unemployment persists as a global challenge that will be further exacerbated by climate change. It is fundamental to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) improving employment opportunities for young people while addressing environmental and social challenges is fundamental to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The transformation of economies and societies towards technological innovation and sustainability will offer youth better employment opportunities in the future. But youth also have an active role to play in designing and implementing solutions for a green planet.

Development Alternatives under its Work 4 Progress (W4P) India programme supported by “la Caixa” Foundation participated in the Solutions For Youth Employment (S4YE) webinar series on ‘Youth-led Innovations to support Green Jobs’ co-organised by the World Bank Group on 26th May 2021.

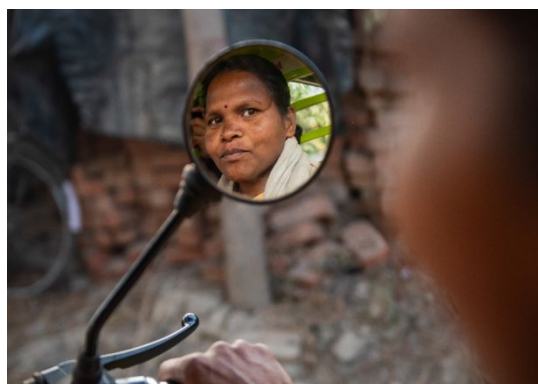
The webinar was a part of S4YE’s ongoing learning series that supports youth employment practitioners to share practical insights and learn from one another. The session was moderated by Ms. Kasia Jakimowicz, Partnership and Outreach, S4YE, and involved experience sharing from two other organisations including Oxfam Novib and ASIGE. From Development Alternatives, Ms. Kanika Verma,

Programme Director, participated in the event to share learning from the youth-led initiatives of the W4P India program that are driving innovation for social and environmental impact.

In her session, Ms. Verma focused on the women-led an e-rickshaw enterprise model, which has been instrumental in providing green mobility solutions for the community. She also shared how the model has led to the emergence of women role models in rural economies that breaking stereotypes providing safe transport facilities, and making aspiration-based entrepreneurship and a reality for all. She highlighted that the 12 e-rickshaw enterprises were set up with 14 employees. These enterprises have saved 60+ tonsnes of Carbon Dioxide emissions and impacted the lives of 950+ people with safer mobility.

Moving ahead, she talked about the response of the model to the COVID19 pandemic wherein, the entrepreneurs have connected with community members to ensure - safe supply of essential products, door-to-door delivery of grocery items, and transport facilities for local policemen and other frontline workers. She concluded the session by highlighting the need of listening to the latent aspirations of youth and women to influence the set-up of thousands of enterprises that are inclusive in nature.

The W4P India program accelerates the creation of meaningful and dignified employment through platforms for innovation, action, and continuous learning in 80 villages of Uttar Pradesh. It adopts a social innovation methodology through which it listens to the community through dialogue, finds answers through co-creation, and then prototypes solutions and shares learning to eventually create impact at scale.



Pragya Devi, the first woman e-rickshaw entrepreneur of Mirzapur, turned her passion for motorbikes into an award-winning venture which is providing safe and affordable transport for school girls and women