



Work 4 Progress (W4P) India Reflection Workshop

The Work 4 Progress (W4P) India programme of Development Alternatives (DA) and “la Caixa” Foundation organised a reflection workshop on 22 December 2020 with implementing partners and field team to analyse learning and shifts, and define a way forward for the next phase of the programme.

W4P India accelerates the creation of meaningful and dignified employment through platforms for innovation, action, and continuous learning. 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. It provides enterprise development opportunities for youth and women in two regions – Bundelkhand and Eastern Uttar Pradesh.

The programme has entered the end of Phase II which focused on deepening impact initiated in the pilot phase and to scale out successful models and prototypes, setting in motion processes for the acceleration of enterprise development in rural India. Towards these ends, the workshop was organised and received participation from over 18 individuals including representatives from implementing partners like Manviya Drishtikon Sewa Samiti (MDSS), and Swami Vivekanand Sewa Samiti (SVSS); field team members, and the programme team located in Delhi.

The first session on ‘Cluster Update’, moderated by Ankita Pant and Saubhagya Raizada included presentations from teams located in both Bundelkhand and Eastern Uttar Pradesh. The teams shared the status of Phase II including: Status on enterprise and job numbers, Achievements and Challenges, Opportunities and Barriers, and a proposed Action Plan for the future.

The next session on 'Analysing Learnings and Shifts' by Vrinda Chopra was an open discussion session wherein participants shared few 'Stories of Change' that they have observed on the ground with respect to an entrepreneur, a prototype, or process incorporated by the team. Some interesting insights came out from the session which reflected on the need to keep documenting the stories as they are acting as a means of inspiration for others and highlighted the role of some of the change agents are playing in knowledge and information sharing between entrepreneurs and other stakeholders.

The last session moderated by Kanika Verma, Programme Director, DA focused on defining a way forward for the programme in the coming phase. This involved the participants to share some key breakthroughs that they observed in Phase II, which can be leveraged in the next phase. Key highlights from the session are:

- Collaboration and Partnerships have helped us in building the W4P India platform that is working towards creating a culture of entrepreneurship in different parts of rural India
- Continuous dialogue with entrepreneurs during COVID-19 has established trust in the community and also led them to use new resources and tools. We have also co-created different opportunities through the digital sphere
- Coalition is providing stakeholders with a platform to work towards entrepreneurship through shared resources and tools. This is also increasing the interest of stakeholders as they are seeing visible impact of the programme on working with women and youth
- Gaps in connecting with entrepreneurs and networks were strained due to lockdown but were covered up with timely response and leveraging digital tools to stay connected with partners and the field members.

Prema Gera, Advisor, and Shrashtant Patara, Sr. Vice President, DA concluded the session by reiterating the fundamentals of the programme. The participants agreed to come together as a network to build a robust strategy for designing the third phase of the programme.