

PATHWAYS TO INCLUSIVE ENTREPRENEURSHIP 2030

Development Alternatives

Development Alternative at the Access Livelihoods India Summit

Development Alternatives (DA) hosted a track session on “Pathways to Inclusive Entrepreneurship 2030” at the Access Livelihoods India Summit held from December 16-17, 2021. DA, as technical partners, hosted two panels during the session. One focused on ‘**Future of Micro Entrepreneurship: A Post Pandemic Outlook**’ and the other on ‘**Cluster Development: An Emergent Ecosystem for Resilient Local Economies**’.

The track was introduced by Kanika Verma, Associate Vice President, DA Group, who highlighted the need for breaking down the impact in order to achieve our long term goals. She quoted, “If we break down the seemingly complex challenge of creating 90 million jobs by 2030, we can come to a manageable solution of creating five enterprises per village per year assuming that one new enterprise can create three jobs “. (India has 7,213 blocks with 90 villages per block)

Future of Micro Entrepreneurship: A Post Pandemic Outlook

The panelists for the session were Anish Kumar, Managing Director, Transforming Rural India Foundation, Bhairavi Jani, Founder, IEF Entrepreneurship Foundation, and Dr. Chintan Vaishnav, Mission Director, Atal Innovation Mission and moderated by Shrashtant Patara, CEO DA Group.

The panel dwelled on the question of how existing institutions can help in making access to entrepreneurship more inclusive and equitable. Individual agencies being central to the work DA does, Shrashtant Patara reiterated that the entrepreneurial aspirations of people will change the face of the

Indian economy. Institutions exist to reduce transaction costs in removing systemic barriers, and if designed right can reduce these costs. It was emphasized by the panelists that there is a need to create a culture accepting these inclusive pathways to entrepreneurship for livelihoods, by centrally placing ourselves in the innovation ecosystem to create local employment opportunities.

Cluster Development: An Emergent Ecosystem for Resilient Local Economies

The panel was moderated by Prema Gera, Advisor, DA Group and the panelists were Ram Pratap Singh, Chambal Agritech Incubator Producer Co. Ltd, Gauri Malik, Founder, Skilled Samaritan Foundation (SSF), Sachin Joshi, Head of Facility for International Cooperation on Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development (FIC-ISID), UNIDO and Ayush Kasliwal, Director, AKFD Studio.

The panel discussed the challenges that cluster ecosystems are facing and how to tackle it. One of the panelists remarked that what a consumer wants is not what is necessarily offered, hence, the ecosystem needs constant business development innovation. In correlation to this, stock is one of the biggest challenges in crafts or agriculture alike as it severely limits one's capability to invest in future stock. Another missing element that was pointed out in the craft ecosystem is that of communication.

As a way forward, it was suggested by one of the panelist that we must focus on three aspects for the communities owned ecosystem or cluster ecosystems:

- 1) **Consistency** and the tools for consistency: Are you maintaining your work process and documenting it?
- 2) **Communication**: Is the quality of the craft being communicated and more importantly, is it being documented?

Overall, the two tracks set the tone for a hopeful and action oriented mindset towards the future of inclusive entrepreneurship. DA aims to take the learning from the event forward and in synergy with ecosystem players to develop the contours of a “Pathways to Inclusive Entrepreneurship”.

