JOBS WE WANT

A platform to co-create systemic solutions that unleash entrepreneurship to secure sustainable livelihoods at scale

INDIA NEEDS TO ADD

15 MILLION new jobs per year for the next 15 YEARS

(CII, 2017)

485 MILLION people in India are working or seeking jobs

OF INDIA’S WORKFORCE

65 MILLION is either underemployed or openly unemployed

(NRFP, 2017)

ENTRY BY INVITATION ONLY.
for further details contact work4progress@devalt.org
Jobs We Want

BACKGROUND NOTE

Over 30,000 young women and men enter the labor market each day in India, and the economy generates employment for less than half of this rapidly expanding workforce. In this race for jobs, only a small fraction find formal sector employment, leaving more than 80 per cent in the informal sector—many of them either in disguised underemployment or open unemployment. It is estimated that in order to address this challenge, India will need to create decent work opportunities for 15 million people; each year, for the next 15 years.

A sustainable growth paradigm requires that the future of work not only bridges the current employment gap, but also fulfills aspirations of the growing workforce. Narratives from the ground continue to suggest that, apart from reducing unemployment numbers, the need today is to create equal access to opportunities that provide decent and attractive work for all; work that embeds new economy principles like use of digital technology and process innovations, while simultaneously instilling a sense of dignity, confidence, and ownership.

Micro enterprises play an instrumental role in this transition as they create local jobs in large numbers. Employing 80 million of India’s workforce, any impetus to this sector will have significant multiplier effects on economic resilience and social well-being. Further, small businesses also have the ability to adopt innovations and replicate them at scale. The growth of these enterprises in emerging economies is however limited, owing to lack of support services and a conducive ecosystem that nurtures their development. Evidence from Development Alternatives Group initiatives indicates that only 1 out 15 entrepreneurs are able to access formal credit, while 85% of these entrepreneurs are constrained by poor access to market channels. Less than 5% of potential entrepreneurs know about non-traditional enterprises that can be established in fast-changing urban and rural markets. Such lack of information becomes an impediment to unlocking the entrepreneurial spirit.

Keeping in mind the inaccessibility of these services on-ground, the increased need for innovation in the support services ecosystem cannot be emphasized enough.

The "Work 4 Progress" (W4P) program in India is an initiative of La Caixa Banking Foundation and Development Alternatives. The program’s principal objective is to promote employment for women and young people facing difficulties in accessing labor markets in underserved areas.
The program seeks to develop an action and learning platform to foster innovative solutions that unleash entrepreneurship and job-creation at scale. To do so, it aims to create rural enterprise models that act as catalysts in the transformation to a new economic paradigm that is local, green, and equitable. A simultaneous focus on aggregators and group enterprises, also seeks to cause ripple effects that create new business models and vibrant market systems. The platform adopts an operational methodology based on four strategic components as cross-cutting elements: Dialogue, Co-create, Prototype, and Learn. It brings together entrepreneurs, practitioners, and policy makers, hoping to build convergence on enterprise and job creation initiatives.

The ‘Jobs We Want’ event launches the W4P platform. It aims to co-create systemic solutions that unleash entrepreneurship to secure sustainable livelihoods at scale. The event will promote dialogue for creation of synergies, within both the market and policy ecosystems, stimulating trigger points that liberate entrepreneurial energies to create the “jobs we want”. This full day event consists of plenary and breakout sessions that will connect voices of rural entrepreneurs and their challenges with development practitioners, businesses, aggregators, and policy makers. With this belief in collaboration, we hope to throw spotlight on the following areas:

- Role of micro and small enterprises as the bridge to changing India’s unequal growth trajectory
- Social and economic challenges that must be addressed to create an enabling environment for micro enterprises
- Potential market and finance innovations that can promote entrepreneurship
- Building a support service network that enables enterprise development at scale
- Potential policy interventions that can accelerate enterprise development among rural communities

Entrepreneurship forms the centre-piece of a multipronged strategy that creates decent work opportunities especially for those who have been left behind in the ‘jobs race’. It helps fulfil our global commitment to Sustainable Development Goal 8 which lays emphasis on “inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.” We look forward to promoting effective solutions that realign the current ecosystem of economic development and job creation, moving towards our collective goals of increasing jobs and sharing the gains of growth inclusively.
SESSION 01 1000 – 1030  Tea and Registration

Inaugural Session

1030 – 1035  Welcome Address by George C. Varughese, President, Development Alternatives Group

1035 – 1040  Inauguration of “Jobs We Want” by H.R.H. the Infanta Cristina of Spain, Director – International Area, “la Caixa” Banking Foundation

1040 – 1110  Introduction to Work 4 Progress Program
  · Marta Solsona Masana,”la Caixa” Banking Foundation
  · Shrashtant Patara, Development Alternatives

1110 – 1130  Inaugural address
  · Dr. Arun K Panda, Secretary, Ministry of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises

1130 – 1200  Plenary Discussion on “New Narratives of Job Creation”
  · Pankaj Pachauri, Eminent Media Personality (Moderator)
  · Arvind Virmani, President – Chintan, Former Representative at the International Monetary Fund
  · Rajeev Sethi, Founder, Asian Heritage Foundation
  · Shyam Sundar Yadav, Weaver, Bhadohi

1200 – 1245  Vote of Thanks by Dr. Arun Kumar, President, Development Alternatives Group

1245 – 1300  Lunch & Time to explore market-place of micro entrepreneurs

SESSION 02 1330 – 1430  Post-lunch Plenary on “Systems Innovations for entrepreneurship led job creation”

Chaired by: Zeenat Niazi, Vice President, Development Alternatives

Panelists
  · Roger Warnock, Program Lead Ireland, The Young Foundation
  · Rohtash Mal, Chairman and MD, EM3 Agriservices
  · B. H. Anil Kumar, Joint Secretary-ARI, Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises

1430 – 1630  Parallel break-out sessions

DIALOGUE: Bridging the information gap

Format: Round table

Facilitated by: Parvathi Menon, Managing Director, Innovation Alchemy

Discussants:
  · Dr. Kanta Singh, State Project Head - UNDP, Ms. Shriya Sethi, Associate Director - International Innovation Corps, Dr. Meenakshi Mittal, Associate Professor, Delhi University, Ms. Sonia Sharma, Founder - Nature Organic, Mr. Samar Nanda, Director - MSME and Mr. Ashutosh Garg, Founder - Guardian Lifecare Pvt.
CO-CREATE: Innovations for underserved micro-entrepreneurs
Format: Brainstorming
Facilitated by: Gorka Espiau, Founding Partner, Social Innovation Laboratory Koop
Discussants: Mr. Ramakrishna NK, CEO - Rang De, Mr. Roger Warnock, Program Lead, Ireland - Young Foundation, Mr. Prabhjot Sodhi, Sr. Program Coordinator - UNDP, Mr. Manab Chakraborty - Development Consultant, Mr. Sharad Marathe, CEO - Universal Technical Systems

PROTOTYPE: Decent work in changing economies?
Format: Systems thinking design lab
Facilitated by Vijay Padaki, Founding Partner – P&P Group
Discussants: Ms. Vinita Agrawal, Economic Advisor - MSDE, Ms Manisha Gupta, Founder-Startup India, Mr. Pradeep Bhargav, Caixa Bank - Country Director of India, Mr. Rajeev Baruah, Country Manager, India Better Cotton Initiative and Mr. Suryamani Roul, Deputy Director – TechnoServe

LEARN: Demystifying impact
Format: Debate
Facilitated by Swapnil Shekhar, COO, Sambodhi Research and Communication
Discussants: Ms. Aparajita Sarangi, JS, MGNREGA Division, Ministry of Rural Development, Mr. M.V. Ashok, Former Chief General Manager, NABARD, Mr. K.R. Viswanathan, International Climate Change Specialist, Practical Action, Ms. Sharanya Chandran, Country Director - J-Pal, Ms. Supriya Kapoor, Senior Business Consultant, Women on Wings, Ms. Monica Jain, Senior Evaluation Specialist - 3ie

1630 – 1700 Break-out Session Reports
1700 – 1710 Concluding remarks by Kanika Verma, Lead – Sustainable Enterprise Program, Development Alternatives Group
1710 – 1800 Tea Break & Time to explore market-place of micro entrepreneurs

SESSION 03 1800 -1915
Talk Show
Moderated by: Mr. Nalin Mehta, Executive Editor, ToI Online
- Shri Jayant Sinha, Hon’ble Minister of State, Government of India
- H.R.H. The Infanta Cristina of Spain, Director – International Area, “la Caixa” Banking Foundation
- Dr Ashok Khosla, Chairman, Development Alternatives Group

1915 – 1935 Launch of monograph: ‘Jobs We Create’... narrating stories of micro entrepreneurs
1945 onwards Cocktails and Dinner