From Margins to the Centre Stage

Women empowerment is imperative for tackling the complexity of gender disparity – enabling women with knowledge, skills, and opportunities to fulfil their needs and aspirations. Since its inception in 1982, Development Alternatives has been designing and providing solutions for women in the areas of Literacy, Energy, Water, Habitat, Skill Development, Waste to Wealth Creation and Enterprise Development. Through Innovative programmes and action research, we are enhancing the agency of women and advancing gender equality. Together with our partners, we have touched the lives of over 10 million women in India and the Global South.
UNLEASHING POTENTIAL AND BUILDING CAPACITIES

- Imparting literacy skills to empower women as a strong social capital, through the ICT-based adult literacy programme – TARA Akshar+
- Training women paralegal workers has ensured gender-sensitive access to justice. Young women are trained to become ambassadors for nutrition, menstrual health, and adoption of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene practices
- Women have been trained in the construction sector for delivery and development of eco-friendly habitat products for green growth

COLLABORATIVE APPROACHES FOR LIVELIHOOD DEVELOPMENT

- Co-creating systemic solutions by imparting financial literacy, sustainable agricultural practices, skilling and unleashing entrepreneurship
- Bringing women to the forefront in the value chain – from leading a gender-sensitive approach to energy access through women-led energy clusters, to enabling women to run manufacturing units for eco-friendly products
- Supporting women to acquire jobs, set up enterprises and form clusters has expanded their access to resources through training, networking and formation of peer-groups

ENABLING WOMEN-LED MECHANISM FOR MANAGEMENT

- Formation of Self Help Groups has enhanced women’s access to bank linkages and networks for enterprise creation. Promoting the development of Federations has further provided financial security and collective bargaining power
- Women also lead the delivery of safe drinking water and lighting solutions powered by renewable energy through self-sustaining Locally Owned and Community Operated (LOCO) models
- Women are leading the way as change agents for rural development by forming watershed and energy committees
Enhancing Agency of Women and Co-creating Sustainable Development Solutions

More than 50,000 women imparted skills for livelihood development in 5 years

3,273 SHGs in 418 villages of Bundelkhand with 36,000 women in 20 years

Imparted literacy to 2,38,400+ women in 10 years

Enabled 587 women-led enterprises in 4 years

SHG members are servicing over 22,500 households by operating rural infrastructures for basic need fulfillment

5 federations in 111 villages, with over 10,000 members
About Development Alternatives

Delivering eco-solutions for people and the planet

Development Alternatives (DA) is a premier social enterprise with a global presence in the fields of green economic development, social empowerment and environmental management. It is credited with numerous innovations in clean technology and delivery systems that help create sustainable livelihoods in the developing world. DA focuses on empowering communities through strengthening people's institutions and facilitating their access to basic needs; enabling economic opportunities through skill development for green jobs and enterprise creation; and promoting low carbon pathways for development through natural resource management models and clean technology solutions.