

Fourth edition of Aarya Manch held at Mirzapur, Uttar Pradesh



Aarya and enterprise ecosystem stakeholders post Aarya Manch-4 session, Mirzapur, Uttar Pradesh

“Women’s economic empowerment seldom stands unless followed by their social empowerment.” This intriguing insight was shared by a Cluster Level Federation (CLF) leader during our last Aarya Manch and this sentiment fueled the energy of our 4th and special edition manch which was held on 25th February 2024 in Mirzapur, Uttar Pradesh. The manch was held with a focus on gender sensitization training for the women e-rickshaw entrepreneurs’ families.

What made this edition remarkable was its focus on various critical issues. In addition to commemorating 100+ women e-rickshaw entrepreneurs, it aimed to involve the families of these women e-rickshaw drivers to showcase the exceptional work these women are doing within their communities. A team of dedicated gender trainers led discussions on gender sensitivity, breaking stereotypes, care work, and methods to empower women within their families through panel discussions and individual sessions.

The event successfully drew in a crowd of 111 individuals, including aspiring women entrepreneurs, members from Self Help Groups, media personnel, National Rural Livelihood Mission, Rural Self Employment Training Institute (RSETI), IndusInd and Aryavart Bank, repair service vendors, school principals, social workers, gender trainers, members of the Cluster Level Federation (CLF) group: Jagriti Perna Mahila Sankul Samiti and other system stakeholders.

The Aarya initiative, a collaboration between Development Alternatives, Manviya Dristikon Sewa Samiti, and supported by Fundación “la Caixa” and ISS A/S, has been the driving force behind empowering 100+ women from rural areas of Mirzapur to kickstart their own e-rickshaw enterprises.

The 4th edition of Aarya Manch's collective efforts showcased at the event contribute to the larger goals of Aarya in creating a more inclusive and supportive ecosystem for women e-rickshaw entrepreneurs.



Aarya with gender trainer during solo-group session at Aarya Manch-4