

National Level Workshop on Social Innovation and Inclusive Entrepreneurship by DA's Centre for Social Innovation and Inclusive Entrepreneurship



Workshop in progress

Development Alternatives (DA), in partnership with the State Bank of India Foundation (SBIF) organised a workshop on “Social Innovation and Inclusive Entrepreneurship” from February 23rd to 24th, 2024, in the city of Mirzapur, Uttar Pradesh. The national-level workshop powered by Centre for Social Innovation and Inclusive Entrepreneurship (CSIIIE) marked a significant milestone in our ongoing mission to promote entrepreneurship through innovative methodologies and systemic approaches.

The workshop brought together over 24 prominent national and state civil society organisations, including PRADAN, HESCO, IDEA Saksham, and MART Academy, serving as a dynamic platform for collaborative discourse and exchange of ideas. Participants convened to share their knowledge, experiences, and commitment to driving positive change across different geographies in India.

Across two days, attendees participated in a series of interactive sessions led by experts in the field. Facilitators included Shrashtant Patara, (CEO and Senior Vice President, DA), Kanika Verma (Associate Vice President and Lead of Green and Inclusive Entrepreneurship, DA), and Prema Gera (Senior Advisor, DA) who guided discussions, offering invaluable insights and nuances into social innovation and inclusive entrepreneurship. The presence of esteemed guests, including Mr. Jagannath Sahoo, President and COO of SBI Foundation, and Mr. Aman Bhaiya, Vice President, further elevated the event, as they shared their wisdom and perspectives with the participants.



Participants visiting Archana, a 17 year old entrepreneur who started a dairy aggregation business in Mirzapur



Participants with community members post completion of the Comic Workshop Exercise

Central to the workshop's agenda was a masterclass on social innovation which emphasised the importance of holistic problem-solving approaches aligned with systemic thinking and social change. Participants worked together to deepen their understanding on the aspirations of emerging entrepreneurs, with a focus on innovation, nurturing ecosystems, and fostering collaboration to address prevailing challenges within the entrepreneurship



Participants of master class workshop with trainers in Mirzapur, Uttar Pradesh

landscape. The workshop provided immersive exercises, including field visits to Mirzapur and Bhadohi, facilitating direct interaction with entrepreneurs and insights into scaling, replicating, and promoting entrepreneurial ecosystems in their own regions.

The workshop shed light on the pivotal role of women's empowerment in driving sustainable livelihoods. Discussions centered on leveraging non-traditional employment avenues, integrating technology, and facilitating skill development to empower women entrepreneurs and create lasting societal impact.

The insights gained from these sessions highlighted the critical need for a comprehensive, collaborative approach to addressing societal challenges and advancing sustainable development goals. By harnessing the collective expertise and passion of all participants, we are poised to pave the way for a brighter, more inclusive future for all. Overall, the workshop brought together NGOs and enabled sharing of learnings and failures from the grassroots level with each other.



Mr. Jagannath Sahoo, COO and President of SBI Foundation, along with Mr. Aman Bhaiya, Vice President SBI Foundation, laying down the context and expectations