



NTNU students visit to Bundelkhand

Students from Norwegian University of Science and Technology visited Bundelkhand, from 12 to 17 January 2020, to work on five key challenges being faced by Development Alternatives (DA) in implementing development programmes in the region. The visit was part of the Sustainable Entrepreneurship programme of NTNU which is divided into two parts: the project and the process.

During the visit a group activity was undertaken by 23 NTNU students led by their project lead and assisted by the DA team. The process part of the programme included reflecting on their learnings from the field and sharing it with the larger group. During the group activity, all the 23 students were divided into 5 groups and were given 5 challenges to work on, which were: TARA Hub; E-rickshaw; Value Addition; Ecotourism and Vermicomposting.

The students were supposed to come up with feasible solutions to the challenges assigned to them by involving in the process of field visits, reflection activities and group discussions. On the final day of the visit, the students presented the possible solutions to the larger team and provided insights into how the organisation can implement it. An additional day was given to the students to explore further into the issues. Students came up with possible solutions and interventions that can be made in above mentioned five areas. The Sustainable Entrepreneurship programme of NTNU is divided into three weeks. In the part students travelled from Trondheim to Helsinki. This involved training and understanding of the concepts of entrepreneurship and some context setting. In the second week they came to India (Orchha) to conduct their field work and see what the ground realities are and how interventions of DA have fared.

In the third and final week the students would delve into their findings and observations and see what has worked and what hasn't. They will then propose what can be done to improve the interventions.