



Capacity Building Workshop with PRADAN and UN Women

Development Alternatives (DA) under the Second Chance Education and Vocational Learning Programme (SCE Project) supported by UN Women conducted an interactive training and capacity building workshop with Business Sakhis and Community Cadres of the Bihar cluster team on 8 April 2021.

Under the SCE Project, DA has partnered with Professional Assistance for Development Action (PRADAN) to address the challenges of normative gender barriers leading to the inability of women to leverage skills to gain employment and mismatched livelihood opportunities. In the collaboration, DA is working towards knowledge transference and providing technical support to co-create an approach consisting of a systematic process of scanning for potential enterprises, capacity building, and ecosystem creation. DA is supporting the implementation partners in the non-farm enterprise development in four states - Rajasthan, Odisha, Bihar, and Maharashtra and in turn unleashing the entrepreneurial energies of women and enabling them to set up enterprises.

In Bihar, the project is implemented in three districts: Gaya, Muzaffarpur, and Kishanganj by PRADAN and its partners including PRAN and Aga Khan Rural Support Programme, India (AKRSPI). The workshop included representatives from all three organisations and focused on orienting them with different tools of community engagement like community meetings, Focus Group Discussions, and identification of potential entrepreneurs. The session was lead by Punam Gondia, Consultant, and Satendra Singh, Trainer, and assisted by Omkar Gupta, Sr. Manager, and Ankit Mudgal, Sr. Manager Development Alternatives Group.

The workshop was designed to give the team an overview of the concept of entrepreneurship and processes of enterprise set-up and support. It helped in the collective mapping of potential women entrepreneurs of the region in terms of skill assessment, support required by each one of them, and co-creating a strategy for future implementation of the project. The session started with a round of introduction and moved on to group activities where the team members worked collaboratively to develop skills on community engagement, development of a pipeline of potential entrepreneurs, and engagement with local stakeholders to influence change at the ecosystem level. In the second half of the session, the participants learned about business plan co-creation with entrepreneurs, which is the key to microenterprise development in rural India.

The interactive discussion during the webinar gave the participants insights into the processes of community engagement for enterprise development and enhanced their capacities to engage and interact with communities and stakeholders to create a culture of entrepreneurship in the area.