



Leading the Way to Innovation for Women Entrepreneurship

The Work 4 Progress (W4P) programme of la Caixa Banking Foundation in collaboration with Development Alternatives (DA) presented at the 12th International Women's Entrepreneurial Challenge Foundation (IWECA) Awards and Conference in Delhi on 12 November 2019. Dr. Ashok Khosla, Chairman, DA and Kanika Verma Programme Director, DA presented the evidence created by the social innovation methodology for entrepreneurship led job creation for women and youth in 60 villages across India.

IWECA Awards and Conference present a global platform for the exchange of knowledge, experience and connectivity among women entrepreneurs worldwide. Started in 2007, it is an initiative of FICCI Ladies Organisation (FLO), Barcelona Chamber of Commerce, Manhattan Chamber of Commerce and US Department of State. Every year, IWECA gathers some of the world's most successful women entrepreneurs in an intensive 2-day conference to inform, connect and celebrate their work across all industries. This year's conference on 'Connecting Women Businesses Globally: Leading the Way to Innovation and Integration', brought together 250 women entrepreneurs, government agencies, think tanks and delegates from across 20 countries, cohesively driving the agenda for scripting economic change for women across the globe.

On the second day of the IWECA annual conference, W4P shared some innovative tools which are breaking gender barriers, strengthening solidarity in communities and making enterprise support services accessible – building the momentum for creating a culture of women entrepreneurship. Some W4P tools that captured the participants' interests were 'safe spaces for women', micro credit facility managed by women, persona based enterprise service delivery, regional entrepreneurship coalitions and self-employment learning app.

The IWEC global platform has opened up new pathways for collaborating with global innovation labs, innovative artificial intelligence projects and thought leaders – kick-starting W4P’s vision of functioning as an open innovation platform.