

## Graduation Ceremony event at Skill Development Centre in Noida, Uttar Pradesh

Commemorating the learning and development journey of rural youth who received the training and support with regards to securing employment through Development Alternatives' Skills to Livelihood project, a graduation ceremony was held on May 19, 2023, at one of our Skill Development Centres in Noida, Uttar Pradesh. The project is aimed at mobilisation placement opportunities and it is backed by HDB Financial Services. It aims to bridge the gap between rural unemployed youth and job market by providing them skill enhancement training which enables them to earn a sustainable income for themselves and their dependents. The project also seeks to enhance the technical skills of various individuals, leading to significant improvements in their confidence and self-esteem.



The event was attended by Mr Vikas Kalra, Head of Sales, HDB Financial Services, Ms Suchi Kainthola, Zonal HR Manager, accompanied by Mr Atul Chandra, Deputy Manager, Corporate Social Responsibility, as well as the team members from Development Alternatives, Ms. Jyoti Sharma, Programme Officer, and Mr. Mohd. Azeem, Programme Officer and Ms Ekta, Project Manager.

Since 2017, Development Alternatives has facilitated training and placement assistance to over 1000 youths annually through this project.

Mr. Vikas Kalra was then invited to engage in an interactive session with the alumni and trainees. He began by discussing HDB Financial Services and shared inspiring success stories of individuals who had started from entry-level positions and had progressed to prominent positions within the same company. During the interaction session, the alumni shared their personal experiences within the program, exhibiting remarkable confidence, and expressing their excitement one after the other. Mr. Kalra commended their self-assurance and encouraged them to continue setting goals, pursuing their passions, and striving for excellence. He emphasised the importance of acquiring good communication skills and learning English for career growth. Mr. Atul Chandra also extended his congratulations to the alumni for their impressive achievements and encouraged them to reach even greater heights.

Following the interaction session, all the trained individuals received certificates of training completion based on their performance in assessment. Development Alternatives conducts two assessments for each long-term batch: a mid-term assessment and a final assessment. These assessments are designed according to the training calendar for each course such as Data Entry

Operator, Assistant Beauty Therapist, and Sewing Machine Operator include both practical and theoretical assessments. Certificates were awarded to 60 youths who successfully completed their training in various job roles, including Micro-Finance Executive, Domestic Data Entry Operator, Sewing Machine Operator, and Assistant Beauty Therapist. The trainers not only provide theoretical knowledge and practical implementation but also prepare the participants for job interviews as part of the Skills to Livelihood project, implemented by Development Alternatives in Jaipur and the Delhi NCR region, with support from HDB Financial Services. Since 2017, Development Alternatives has facilitated training and placement assistance to over 1000 youths annually through this project.



Quotes from trainees and alumni,

“I am a little nervous to speak but I really want to share that the programme has not just helped me gain knowledge about the course but made me feel worthy. I used my first income from stitching a suit set to pay the tuition fee of my children and that gave me the confidence which I never had”, Priya, an alumna from Sewing Machine Operators’ course.

“I have been working with Croma Electronics store in Gaur City Mall for over one year now, the skills I learnt here during my training have made me a quick learner as I already have an idea about the retail sector. I apply the skills learnt from the course at my job for better communication that helps in dealing with customers.”, Archana, an alumna from Retail Trainee Associate’s course.