A shoka’s LiFA organised a webinar in collaboration with UN Women India under this year’s International Women’s Day’s theme of “breaking the bias.” The event had a line-up of highly experienced professionals working in the fields of skilling and creating livelihoods from the Fellow-led organisation such as Udyogini, Medha and Quest Alliance. Further, Dr. Suvarna Kharat, Joint secretary from Department of skill, development employment and entrepreneurship, Maharashtra, underlined the crucial role of entrepreneurship in the 21st century which ignited actionable recommendations from the panel.

Ashoka’s Livelihoods for All Initiative, in association with IKEA foundation, aims to scale up the innovative ideas of Ashoka Fellows and catalyze a shift in the paradigm of thought within the livelihoods sector. We bring you the second edition of our quarterly newsletter, where we share updates from our work at the Livelihoods for all (LiFA) programme and our partners, as well as insights from the field of livelihoods.

Our Insights
Ashoka’s LiFA has partnered with the India Development Review – a premier industry-specialist platform in the development sector in the region. Take a look at the articles below to peek into the stories shared from the Livelihoods domain.

1. Fish to Water: Meghalaya’s emerging aquaculture community
2. Back to School: Assam’s nutrition gardens
3. Faith in business: Nagaland’s nonprofit networks

Article Series Launch:
Discover all the articles from the LiFA series here!

Webinar on Economic Empowerment and Entrepreneurship
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Catch the conversations here:
Panel 1 - Successfully bridging the gender gap in rural-urban livelihood spaces
Panel 2 - Empowering women entrepreneurs in rural India: challenges and opportunities
COMMUNICATION WORKSHOP

Ashoka's LiFA team jointly held a successful workshop with IDR to hone the communication skills of the partners on 10th and 11th March 2022.

“The process of mapping what we want our audience to takeaway was beneficial” - Jai Tiwari, Medha

“... keep evolving, start with a general pitch and customise it for the end audience” - Ajit Singh, Anant Learning and Development Pvt. Ltd.

PEER TO PEER LEARNING

In February, LiFA's peer meet witnessed partners and fellows sharing lessons learnt and discovering solutions. With a curated set of experts like Manorath Dhillon, CEO, Okhai, and Anup Nayar, COO, Local Economic Development Society, the cohort benefited from engaging with stalwarts in the field of market.

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

In January and February, Sambodhi (an independent research firm) completed the baseline for 4 organisations reaching a sample of 2200 individuals across Bihar, Rajasthan, Maharashtra and Meghalaya as part of LiFA's impact assessment. This longitudinal study will bring out key insights from the partners' work and provide significant programmatic direction.

EXPERT DIALOGUE

Start Up! convened social entrepreneurs to gain insights from Geeta Goel, Country Director, Michael and Susan Dell Foundation on designing solutions for nano-entrepreneurs to thrive. The discussions around government buy-in and collectivising efforts using the LiFA platform resonated with the participants.

SPOTLIGHT

Trupti Jain from Naireeta, Prema Gopalan from Swayam Shikshan Prayog and Hasina Kharbhii from Impulse NGO Network, are among 75 coveted women recognised by NITI Aayog for their exceptional work in transforming India.

GENERAL UPDATES

AROUND THE FIELD

As the Omicron wave subsided, the LiFA team hit the field to connect with the Fellows, identify challenges and better understand the progress made in the first quarter of 2022. The scorching heat in Bihar did not stop the community members from enthusiastically narrating their experiences.

WEYMENS BUSINESS

LiFA Fellow, Hasina Kharbhii, Founder and Chairperson of Impulse NGO Network, spoke about the necessity and ways of closing the gap created for women entrepreneurs during the pandemic at the National Women Entrepreneurship Summit 2022, hosted by Meta India. She highlighted the role of the digital space in the survival of MSMEs through these tough times, and the growing need to empower women with technical skills.

#SHEMEANSBUSINESS

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