

After organizing successful batches of CSR Level 1 training and WASH Level 1 training, TARA Livelihood Academy (TLA) delivered yet another highly informative and positively received certificate training programme on Geographic Information System (GIS). The two-day event was held on 10 & 11 September, 2015 at the Development Alternatives world headquarters in New Delhi.



TARA Livelihood Academy is the special vehicle of the **Society for Technology & Action for Rural Advancement (TARA)**, a social enterprise set up in 1985 at New Delhi, India. It is the 'incubation engine' of the **Development Alternatives Group** which has been providing development solutions in India and elsewhere. TLA was set up in 2007 to provide three types of services:

- **Employability Skills:** Aimed at making people employable through Life Skills, Vocational and Self-employment training
- **Entrepreneurship Development:** Aimed at providing entrepreneurship skills through enterprise management courses for beginners, existing entrepreneurs and business expansion courses for enterprise associations
- **Executive Know-how:** Aimed at orienting executives towards development issues through capacity building and consultancy

The pilot training programme on GIS titled 'Enabling a Digital India: Using the Power of Geographic Information System (GIS)' was conducted by the experienced Innovation Solutions Branch, Development Alternatives, led by Mr. Anand Kumar. Participants from diverse fields such as rural development NGOs, wildlife protection bodies, educational institutes and private infrastructure firms took part. The main objectives achieved out of the programme were:

- Understanding the basics of Geographic Information System (GIS) and how it can facilitate in planning and decision making
- Getting acquainted with tools, techniques and information via hands-on training that would be required to undertake GIS application in various thematic areas (NRM, Health and CSR)
- Case studies from DA's experiences in using GIS for various development projects
- One-on-one session with each participant on developing a GIS cell in their respective organizations

The feedback from the participants on the content and delivery of the GIS training module was phenomenal. The two-day session concluded with a guided tour of the Development Alternatives building which can be best described as a living ecosystem: a fine balance of natural and man-made processes employing environment-friendly energy, material and water management methods (<http://devalt.org/OurBuilding.aspx>), and a shopping spree by the ladies at our very own TARAGram store (<http://www.tara.in/TARAGram-details.aspx>).