

Entrepreneurship Charity Calling for More Women in Science

Entrepreneurship support charity Hatch Enterprise is calling for women in the science sector to join its upcoming programme to launch or grow their business idea.

Friday 11 February is the United Nations' International Day of Women and Girls in Science, intended to recognise women as agents of change in the scientific community and promote equality across the fields of science, technology, engineering, and maths (STEM).

Recent data shows that women make up just 24% of the core STEM workforce with key barriers to this sector including gender stereotypes, male-dominated work cultures, and fewer female role models.

These barriers can emerge early on and in order to combat the disparity more needs to be done to equally promote scientific interest in early years education.

These two female-led businesses supported by Hatch Enterprise are doing just that and are ready to empower the next generation of women in science.

Earth Warriors

Founded by avid educationalists Keya Lamba and Shweta Bahri, Earth Warriors is a business with the mission to tackle the climate crisis by providing a comprehensive climate education curriculum for 3-11 year olds using a positive and empowering approach.

In their research the pair discovered that there was no comprehensive curriculum focused on climate change and sustainability for children in the early stages of education. This was despite a growing demand from teachers, parents, and children themselves.

Keya said: "We hope our positive and empowering approach will inspire young students, especially young girls, to pursue careers in STEM. We as the co-founders remain dedicated to our mission of bringing the programme to as many teachers and children around the world as possible."

Earth Warriors is currently being rolled out in schools in the UK, the US, Botswana, and India and with the support of a Hatch Incubator programme Keya and Shweta are receiving expert support on how to continue growing their enterprise to reach even more children across the world.

Native Scientist

Native Scientist co-founder Joana Moscoso wanted to broaden the horizons of underserved children by connecting them with scientists after identifying the disparity in children's science education

She explains, "at Native Scientist, we work towards the day when every child feels 'I can be a scientist if I want to,'" and envisions a world where the full potential of every child can be met.

Native Scientist develops, delivers, and evaluates science outreach and education programmes focused on connecting scientists and children with a shared background to broaden children's horizons and promote a fair and quality science education.

Businesses like these are showing young women and girls that they do have a place in the scientific community, and giving them the tools to excel. Through role models like Keya, Shweta, and Joana more girls are being encouraged to pursue their passion and bring their much-needed talents and perspective to the field of their choice.

Through receiving support from Hatch Enterprise these female founders are growing their businesses and making a difference in their sectors.

Hatch programmes include one-to-one coaching, bespoke masterclasses, and peer networking opportunities and are available at the launchpad, incubator, and accelerator levels depending on the current needs of the business or business idea.

Co-Head of Programmes Joanna Hamer said, "over the last seven years we have supported a range of women working on businesses and social enterprises who are revolutionising their industries and sectors through their work. We're looking forward to welcoming the next cohort of entrepreneurs to our programmes and can't wait to see the ideas that come from our next community of founders."

The next round of Hatch support programmes are launching in May, with applications now open.

Ends

Hatch Enterprise is a national enterprise support charity that has supported over 5000 entrepreneurs to imagine, launch, and grow their businesses since 2014. Hatch supports underrepresented entrepreneurs, including those from marginalised genders and ethnicities, and impact businesses that are making a positive impact on their communities.

All individuals mentioned in this story have given their consent to be featured and have their image used, and are available for further contact.

The International Day of Women and Girls in Science was declared in 2015 and is an official United Nations observance: <https://www.un.org/en/observances/women-and-girls-in-science-day>

Statistic on women in STEM is from this WISE report:

<https://www.wisecampaign.org.uk/statistics/2019-workforce-statistics-one-million-women-in-stem-in-the-uk/>

Individuals can apply to Hatch programmes here: <https://hatchenterprise.org/our-programmes/>