

BIG Ideas Session

Social Protection In a World Without Jobs?

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Unpacking the Crises

- **Employment Crisis: Precariatization** – Liquid labour → Business Model → job insecurity → erosion of quality → creeping upward
- **Welfare Crisis:** market volatility → welfare unable to catch up
- **Intellectual Crisis:** conceptual tools → obsolete → formal-informal binary
- Reality becomes **Category-Resistant**
- Need to return to **First Principles**
- Elon Musk → SpaceX Rockets Model → what is a Rocket made of?
- Similar application in Social Protection

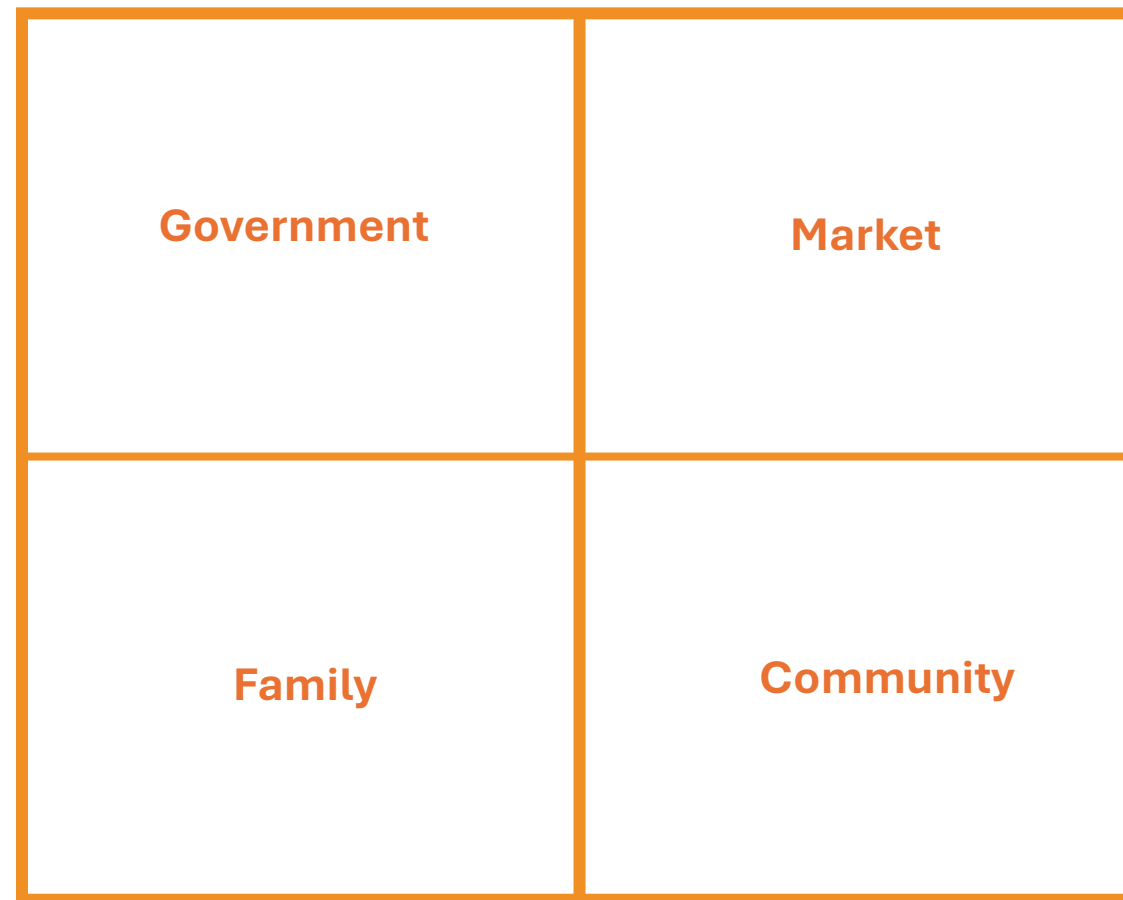


ASIA-PACIFIC SOCIAL PROTECTION WEEK 2026

Empowered Lives, Resilient Futures



***From birth to death
whose responsibility
is it to care for You?***



***And then, The Covid Moment
Exposes the architecture of our Care***

The Extravagant Idea of **Universal Basic Income**

FIVE PILLARS (BIEN)



1. UNIVERSAL

For every person
in the society,
without exception.



2. INDIVIDUAL

Paid to each person,
not to households.



3. UNCONDITIONAL

No work requirement.
No means test.
No conditions.



4. REGULAR

Paid at a predictable
interval, providing
security and stability.



5. ONLY CASH, not vouchers.





The Evidence from Pilots

- **Experimented in many countries** – Namibia, Kenya, India, USA, Finland, Wales, etc
- **What happens when people have basic security?**
- **Three consistent results:**
 - **People repurpose their labour**, don't exit labour market; some move to self-employment –livestock
 - **Reduce debt burden** – shift from predator moneylenders to community → mental health
 - **Food and nutrition improves**, especially of women and girls



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The Idea is Moving: From Experiments to Policy

The Asia-Pacific UCT Landscape – All Unconditional

Country & Policy Model	Financial Scale (USD)	The Political Urgency & Electoral Impact
India (State Women's UCTs: Ladli Behna, Gruha Lakshmi)	~\$20 Billion annually	Implemented by parties (like Congress) that swept state polls by addressing the severe financial distress of the female electorate.
India (Farmer Income Support: PM-KISAN, Rythu Bandhu)	~\$10 Billion annually	Pioneered by leaders like KCR who secured massive mandates by combating acute agricultural debt traps and farmer suicides.
Malaysia (STR Cash Framework)	~\$3.5 Billion annually	Addressed severe cost-of-living spikes and structural post-pandemic economic scarring among the middle and lower classes.
Republic of Korea (Regional & Emerging National Dividends)	~\$200 Million+ annually	Propelled Lee Jae-myung to the Presidency in 2025, validating that answering youth job anxiety with direct cash is a winning national mandate.
Global Context (Mexico, Poland, Brazil)	Massive National Budgets	Cash floors—like Mexico's Bienestar pensions or Poland's "500+"—are now the definitive electoral wedge issues securing national dominance worldwide.



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Post-Job, Not Post-Work

➤ Job vs work:

- **Job** = market = buy/sell labour
- **Work** = what we choose to do, what sustains life

