

The LaunchPad

Disability Innovation Pre-Accelerator Lab

PARTNERS:



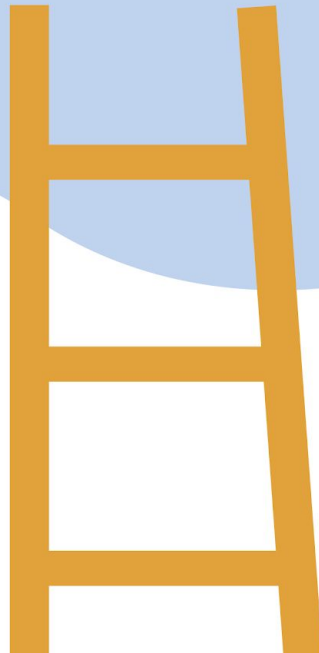
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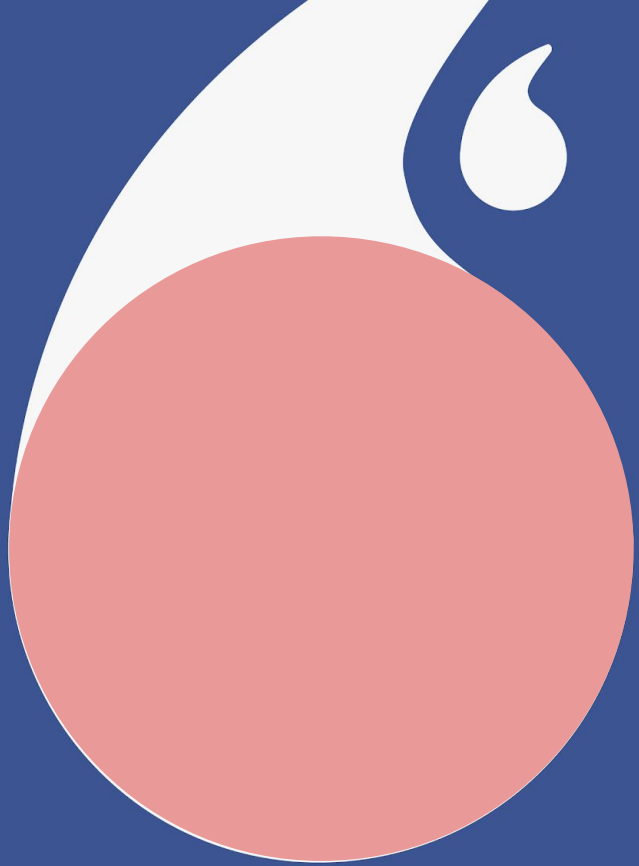


OTHER PARTNERS INCLUDE:



Welcome!





Designing interventions without sufficient thinking on contexts of users with disabilities, can set us back several years in the technology for independent living sprint.

Pre-Accelerator Lab Narrative



Introduction

In May 2019, Vihara commenced an ethnographic study in New Delhi & Lucknow to develop an experiential understanding of how people with disabilities face barriers in their everyday lives. Focusing on three disabilities—locomotor or orthopedically impaired, speech & hearing impaired, and visually impaired—we documented detailed accounts using daily experiences and everyday interactions as data, to understand the layers and contexts of daily living challenges. This research was conducted for LIRNEasia, and funded by the Ford Foundation.

The study, titled Innovations for Independent People with Disabilities in India revealed some crucial insights:

- + Significant interventions (in terms of accessibility features in smartphones, newer technologies for people with mobility impairments, and sustained policy focus on disability issues) are taking place in India; more rapidly in recent years. Yet, awareness remains low, and solutions only partially address the range of interventions required to promote independent living, and achieve human potential.
- + Despite policy and tech inroads, people with disabilities continue to experience roadblocks to independent living, as most solutions are not context-specific and seldom account for complex & layered user experience.

Challenges for Independent Living

- + Among the many communication barriers for people with speech and hearing impairments, communicating with healthcare professionals cause significant anxiety and distress.
- + People with disabilities face increased vulnerabilities during health emergencies and natural disasters, contending with hostile environments and lack of customised, quick response solutions.
- + Single solutions cannot sufficiently address the multiple challenges associated with conducting what could look like a single task.
- + Disclosing disabled identity is difficult, but also necessary.
- + Lack of easily accessible and comparable information about disabled-friendly places, assistive products, and devices lead to making choices which are not fully informed and user experiences which are either mediocre or unsatisfactory.
- + Significant developments in ICT as AT for the visually impaired have taken place, but people continue to face barriers in accessing online banking and e-commerce interfaces, and updates across different devices, softwares, and websites can hamper access and usability.

Lab's Rationale

Our in-depth ethnographic findings in India have demonstrated the multiple layers of experiencing barriers to independent living, and through the Disability Innovations Lab (the outcome of the pre-acceleration programme), we hope to view solutions not as fixed outputs, but as processes that need to be contextualised, co-designed, tested, and where required, refurbished, based on the lived experiences of people with disabilities.

The pre-acceleration programme, starting from where the Innovations for Independent Living study concluded, has been planned to address this lack of context and create the platform to design not just solutions, but situated solutions.

The Disability Pre-Acceleration Labs has been visioned to act as a precursor to a disability innovation accelerator—a collaborative to accelerate the development of and access to assistive social and technological solutions that enable disabled people to achieve their human potential. The pre-acceleration lab will bring together innovators, experts, impact investors, and people with disabilities to develop and fulfil the vision of creating context-specific, usable solutions to human potential barriers faced by people with disabilities.

Intervention Areas



Lab's Intervention Areas

In this three-day pre-accelerator, we hope to:

- + Challenge traditional solutions and introduce new solutions by aggregating key ecosystem stakeholders:
Thought leaders, experts, innovators, activists, policy makers, and civil society organizations in the disability ecosystem will come together to ideate cross-cutting solutions and partnerships in the 3-day pre-accelerator. 4-5 teams will work collaboratively on thinking through the solutions to be prototyped.
- + Drive systemic solutions:
The pre-accelerator will probe the innovators to create sharpened solutions that drive the change from the systemic level and reach the end beneficiaries in the most efficient and adaptive way.
- + Deploy focused user-centered, bottom-up approaches:
The innovators will work on the user-centered approach for the solutions, understanding the community dynamics, existing challenges, and opportunities that can be absorbed within the disabled people most effectively.
- + Identify intervention avenues and create solutions for providing equal access and opportunity people with disabilities during the COVID-19 outbreak:
Certain populations, such as people with disabilities, have been experiencing, and will continue to experience greater vulnerability during the COVID-19 outbreak. Thought leaders and innovators will work together to create a strategic framework to address this challenge, and identify solution pathways, capitalising on how to take essential services and solutions to people with disabilities, who may be facing heightened issues of mobility and access. This will also enable us to understand how to learn from changing user behaviours brought about due to these circumstances.

Designing Innovation and Enhancing Independence

Findings from the field indicate that people with disabilities experience barriers in three major domains—infrastructure, artefacts, and behaviours they encountered from non disabled persons. Identified challenges require either technological interventions (product/service development), or systemic change through policy interventions (advocacy and lobbying), or a combination of both, or hybrid interventions. By bringing together cross-sectoral experts, the event aims to provide a conducive environment for multi-pronged conceptualisation by inviting proposals to resolve the undermentioned challenges.

- + What smartphone-based & digital artefacts can further enhance independent living and achieving human potential?
- + What ICT based solutions for the built environment can enable barrier-free movement?
- + What ICT-based SBCC tools can be built with a multi pronged approach to offer systemic change in knowledge, attitudes, and perceptions among non-disabled?

Lab's Structure at a glance



AccelerateAbility Phase 01

Dates: 10th August to 14th August

Time: 11 am to 2 pm everyday

Platform: Zoom Call

(Link attached on last page)

Outcomes: Learning, Iterations, Reflections, and 6 to 8 shortlisted startups from larger pool

Total: 05 Days

Build understanding on evolving challenges of disability segment and methods to create inclusive solutions

- / Understand the evolving landscape of disability segment to design inclusive future for PwDs
- / Active learning from industry experts on Disability, Policy, Intervention and innovation gaps in the segment
- / critique of social, technical and policy innovations for disability in India
- / Insights and gaps from visual, hearing and locomotor specialists
- / Masterclass on creating evaluation matrix and partner network model for contextually Sensitive, User Friendly & Accessible Solutions
- / Prototype design sprints in support of segment experts
- / Pitching session to screen finalists for sprint 02

Designing strategies to design contextual solutions

- / Mentoring sessions with industry experts to refurbish existing product solutions
- / Devising success metrics, evaluation frameworks, and partnership models to explore ways of contextualizing solutions
- / Refining the approaches and shortlisting startups for phase 02

AccelerateAbility Phase 02

Dates: 24th August

Time: 11 am to 1 pm

Platform: Zoom Call

(Link attached on last page)

Outcomes: 3 to 5 Winning Startups

Shortlisted startups from phase 01 to pitch their propositions to leading impact investors in the ecosystem.

Meet the Cohort



XLCINEMA

Brajma Intelligence Systems

Hear the movie in your native language in cinema hall through your smartphone privately over headphone on XL Cinema application.



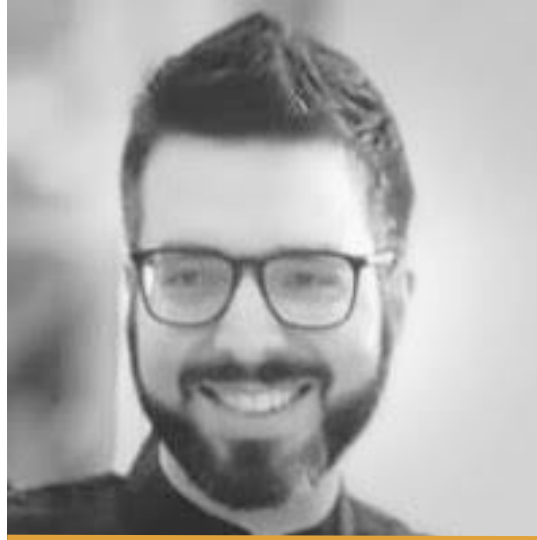
Trestle Labs

We make world's resources inclusive to empower the blind and visually-impaired towards inclusive education and equal employment opportunities.



TorchIt

TorchIt is an Indian enterprise working towards the empowerment of the Peoples with Disabilities by designing simple and effective tech based solutions which can help them lead a more independent and fulfilled lives.



Lazarillo

Lazarillo App serves as a digital guide for the blind. As a person walks, the application notifies them of nearby places and objects that may be of their interest through voice notifications and warnings. So it might tell them if they're approaching a bus stop or there's a nearby restaurant.



Illuminify Technologies

An ecosystem of devices that empower visually impaired people to access readily available content seamlessly.



Visio Apps

Voice App that enables Visually Impaired (VI) to do day-to-day functions on their own and realize their aspirations enabling them to:

- Control their phone functionality & popular apps like whatsapp, youtube, uber with just spoken voice commands
- Founder himself is visually impaired
- Also, for motor disabled and elderly people
- Fulfill their needs in all dimensions of life such as social communication, entertainment, skills improvement, mobility and education



DeepVisionTech

DeepVisionTech Private Limited is a budding Social Startup who help Enterprises build Smart & Intelligent solutions. We specialize in Machine Learning and Deep Learning techniques in Computer Vision, Natural Language Understanding and Generative Adversarial Networks. The company was established in late 2019 by Jayasudan Munsamy with prototypes of a handful of solutions which vary in nature, for different verticals – disability sector, agriculture, healthcare and gaming. Our patented solutions & techniques will give business solutions competitive advantage and improve outcome.



Nexart TechnoSolutions

After establishing ourselves in 2017 and working as a service provider till the start of 2019, we decided to move into developing our own products which we have formulated over the past few years. We bootstrapped ourselves into product development from start of 2019 focusing mainly into Image Recognition and Financial Technologies. We are also incubated under Ma'an - Authority of Social Contribution for 'Eyewey' using visual recognition to help people with blindness from September of 2019. We have been fortunate to have our second product 'Hyloca' focused on helping small businesses to be nominated under top ten in the world in CovHack Challenge' 2020 hosted by 'Innovate for Good' under Stratecis with support of UN, Catalyst-Masdar, Govt. of Dubai etc.



India Signing Hands

ISH News was first set up by Mr. Alok Kejriwal, Mr. Aqil Chinoy, and Mrs. Mansi Shah. ISH News is India's leading online News and Entertainment channel producing content in accessible formats such as Indian Sign Language, subtitles, voice-overs as well as attractive graphics. These are created by a team of Deaf professionals & CODAs (Child of Deaf Adult) using Indian Sign Language (ISL). We have gained over 3.6 crore views over Facebook, YouTube & Instagram, since our launch in November 2018. Under the limited financial support from Alok Kejriwal, Aqil Chinoy's guidance, and Mansi Shah's coordination, we have become the largest News and Entertainment channels online for the Deaf community. At ISH News our staff comprises 90% Deaf Individuals who work as Actors, Interpreters, Script Writers and Video Editors.



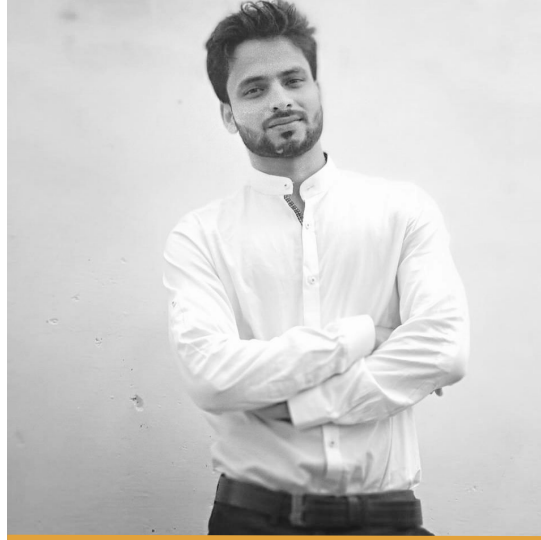
Sonant Technologies

We are an assistive tech startup develop ecosystem of technology tools for people with speech and hearing disabilities to help them in different aspect of their lives.



Bramhansh Technologies

Bramhansh is a techno-driven startup working on "Bone Conduction Technology". In this technology, sound directly travels to the inner ear bypassing your outer and middle ear, while placed either over your cheek or temple bones. This technology can be served to sectors like hearing impairment, defence communication, meditational voice therapy, sectors like hearing impairment, defence communication, meditational voice therapy, recreational device, company is initially planning to deploy with the form factor of wellness device.



SignAble Communications

A mobile app to connect deaf ISL users
with interpreters to call hearing people.



Pedius

The app that lets deaf people 'hear' phone calls: Pedius converts speech to text in real time. The free Pedius app was created to help deaf people 'speak' on the phone using voice recognition and speech translation to make calls more natural. When a call is made using the app the user types a message on the screen. This is translated to speech in real time, so the recipient can 'hear' them. The recipient's spoken response is then immediately translated into text. Pedius is free on Android and iOS but calls start at 15p per minute.



Embright Infotech

At Embright Labs we design products for the therapy aid for Autism and special needs for hearing impaired people.

Planet Abled

We work with the concept of “Universal Design”, focusing on giving people with different disabilities and non-disabled, a platform to come together, to create an inclusive group for a unique human interaction, the only one in the world to do that. This World Tourism Day 2019, we received the National Award for the most Unique and Innovative Tourism Product by the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India for our efforts in the Accessible Travel space in India. Planet Abled has also been awarded as one of the best innovative practices by Zero Project Conference at United Nations Vienna in 2018. Planet Abled is also the recipient of India Responsible Tourism Award by Outlook Traveler and World Travel Market, London - Best Innovation in Travel & Overall Winner and NCPEDP - Mphasis Universal Design Award. People from over 15 countries are there to vouch for the wonderful Indian experiences with Planet Abled. Planet Abled has also represented India as a major accessible travel destination on global platform like ITB Berlin, Global Sustainable Tourism Council Conference in Thailand, International Congress on Tourism and Technology in Diversity in Malaga, Spain and World Tourism Forum, Lucerne.



Vi Innovations

We design interventions for locomotor impaired (people without hands) people to drive vehicles with ease. We design Automobile Device Control System-IoT (Electronic Device + Mobile App) (Indian patents pending) with Centralised Device Management system with Digital Touch Input with intuitive features such as Touch control for Power Windows, Wipers, AC, Interior Lights, Air Quality and temperature sensors for remote monitoring of In-Cabin Air Quality. Remote ignition and ac controls, Live Tracking.

Comfortable device control for differently abled persons. Devices could be controlled from customisable digital touchscreen. Large digital switches enables easy controls.



myUDAAN

myUDAAN is a Technology Driven Social Impact startup solving PEOPLE MOBILITY problems especially for Disabled, Elderly, Bedridden, expecting mothers & temporarily disabled. The product has been designed for PwD & being Leveraged through the Elderly.



BeAble Health

BeAble Health is committed to enabling health & lives, through design and technology. Our innovative solution ArmAble is solving a pressing need for intensive, engaging and regular rehabilitation therapy for the Upper Limb. Our connected application 'BeOne' connects patients to Doctors/Physiotherapist to monitor and delivery quality therapy decisions.



Important Information:

Venue: Zoom Platform

Key Contact:

Phase 01 | 10th August - 14th August

Link to Sessions:

<https://zoom.us/j/91260471108?pwd=UytWYVNDWUNQdEpicElKSFI0MXNvUT09>

Phase 02 | 24th August | Demo Day

Link to Session:

<https://zoom.us/j/97792133232?pwd=THhLNStRK1dIOGtQQVEyblZ0ZjNWUT09>

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Thank You

