

100x Impact Accelerator Research Grants

Venture Research Prompts

Autumn 2024

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Chancen International

Venture website: <https://chancen.international/>

100x Impact Accelerator theme of focus:

- Education
- Equitable Economies

Venture research prompts:

1. Do ISAs have a positive impact on human capital and labour market outcomes, and reduce poverty rates among vulnerable youth?
2. Does skills development and tertiary education improve skills and labour market outcomes, and reduce poverty rates among vulnerable youth?
3. Are human capital and labour market returns to ISAs and tertiary education larger for female applicants?
4. Is the ISA model profitable and thus can be proven as a new asset class?

“Having robust counterfactual data and analysis will test our assumptions and theory of change, inform our business model for scale and provide access to larger sources of financing.”

Darsel

Venture website: <https://www.darsel.tech/>

100x Impact Accelerator theme of focus:

- Education

Venture research prompt:

1. What is the impact of Darsel's AI-powered personalized learning chatbot on math learning outcomes for secondary school students? What design choices (related to Darsel's adaptive learning algorithms as well as implementation model) maximize impact? We can feasibly run (another) RCT to answer these questions.

“Research will help maximize Darsel's impact while also spreading the word about the untapped potential of learning chatbots in low-resource settings.”

Gramhal

Venture website: <https://www.gramhal.org/>

100x Impact Accelerator themes of focus:

- Equitable Economies
- Climate and Environment

Venture research prompt:

1. What is the relative impact of different market frictions (such as asymmetrical bargaining power, search costs, and lack of competition) on farmers' income, and how can we best iterate on our existing digital product to maximise farmer welfare while ensuring financial sustainability?

“The proposed research will strongly guide us in finalizing product features and our financial model, all with the aim of maximising the positive impact on farmers' income. We are currently testing different types of price information, such as publicly available data and crowdsourced real-time information from farmers. We are also considering various business models; offering free access to all, charging farmers, or charging traders while keeping it free for farmers. As we strive for financial stability, it's crucial that we don't unintentionally design a product that excludes marginal farmers or negatively affects them due to an information advantage favouring other stakeholders.”

ImpulsoGov

Venture website: <https://www.impulsogov.org/>

100x Impact Accelerator theme of focus:

- Health and Social Care

Venture research prompts:

1. What are the health effects of minimum schedules of visits to a general practitioner and preventative exams for people with chronic diseases in LMICs?
2. What are the short, medium and long-term effects (including non-health and spillover effects) of lay-led interpersonal counselling

- (IPC) treatment for people with mild and moderate depressive symptoms in LMICs?
3. What is the effect of an additional antenatal care visit on perinatal outcomes?
 4. Which types of WhatsApp reminders and scheduling features best promote the intake of preventative health services?
 5. What is the best way to evaluate the impact of a decision-support platform focusing on primary healthcare workers and managers?

“LSE research could provide strong evidence that would guide and help to shape our work, ensuring that we have the most impact possible with our work.”

Intelehealth

Venture website: <https://intelehealth.org/>

100x Impact Accelerator theme of focus:

- Health and Social Care

Venture research prompts:

1. What is the value addition of telemedicine for the health system to provide effective comprehensive primary care?
 - a. Reduction in morbidity and mortality at the population level (early detection, improved referral at the right time and place, better triaging, better compliance, increased utilization)
 - b. Increase in the number of years of healthy living (DALYs, Increase in the QOL of patients at population level (QALY)
2. Evaluate the overall cost-effectiveness of implementing a telemedicine system in a primary care setting.
 - a. Assess the impact on healthcare expenditure, considering direct (telemedicine platform setup, software, hardware, training, and HR, operational costs, policy, and regulatory compliance) and indirect costs (time investment of Frontline workers, doctors took out of their other daily activities, expense of awareness in demand generation, existing infrastructure supporting the telemedicine platform, etc)
 - b. Analyze the return on investment (ROI) by comparing the costs and benefits associated with telemedicine

implementation (estimating the matching investment by the government or partners for every dollar spent by IH for specific programs)

“Research could strengthen the value proposition that Intelehealth brings to the table to better access the right funds and donors. It could also help us to determine the most strategic allocation of resources and help in carrying out advocacy for scaling up our initiative with the Government.”

Karya

Venture website: <https://karya.in/>

100x Impact Accelerator themes of focus:

- Equitable Economies
- New Frontiers

Venture research prompts:

1. To what extent does participation in a Worker Advisory Council/ worker union impact gig data workers' well-being, income, and self-esteem?
2. What framework (parameters, benchmarks and guidelines) can be generated to ensure and measure ethical digital labour employment and practices?
3. How does Karya's model of in-principle data ownership impact attitudes and savings generated through their work?

“Karya is fundamentally solving for a market failure, one where data workers are paid unfairly and subject to unethical working conditions/ practices. We are trying to bring more data work into an “ethical” framework. Internally, we have decided to pay our workers 20x local minimum wages, give them work-time flexibility, and offer them royalties and in-principle ownership of the data they generate. While we have conducted impact evaluations to identify the efficacy of work being done by low-income women on our smartphone-based platform, we have yet to explore more deeply their experience of the work and how that can lead to implementable standards. This year we are conducting a pilot cooperative model where we are implementing a Worker Advisory Council to give workers greater autonomy and decision-making power over their working conditions and wages.

“Doing research to understand the impact of some of our key unique interventions (licensing structure, worker advisory council, 20x wages, smartphone-based work) lays the evidence base to create more universally acceptable frameworks around ethical digital employment practices. This would not only help in strengthening the case for our business model but also give us a concrete understanding of how to improve our intervention for our participants.”

Labhya

Venture website: <https://www.labhya.org/>

100x Impact Accelerator themes of focus:

- Happiness and Wellbeing
- Education

Venture research prompts:

1. Which public education and health interventions have had the most impact on children's well-being?
2. Per dollar spent, what is the most effective and scalable approach to assessing children's well-being?
3. Per dollar spent, which have been the most effective programs that have increased student learning outcomes (numeracy, literacy, school attendance), and mental health outcomes among children?
4. Comparative landscape study of program evaluations that have shown shifts in student learning outcomes (numeracy, literacy, school attendance) and mental health outcomes among children.
5. Overall landscape study of global philanthropy trends towards mental health across sectors, e.g., preventive mental health, MH education, and Mental Health support.

“Exploring the abovementioned research questions will help Labhya in 2 catalytic ways:

- *To build a compelling argument for the need to invest in children’s wellbeing*
- *To build a benchmark for evidence generation that Labhya can work towards by strengthening our evaluation and research work”*

OneDay Health

Venture website: <https://www.onedayhealth.org/>

100x Impact Accelerator theme of focus:

- Health and Social Care

Venture research prompts:

1. What is the process that people follow when they get sick in remote rural areas both with and without OneDay Health centers? Do they first buy medication from a drug shop? Or wait some days and hope the condition improves? Or travel to distant government facilities?
2. Has the last 20 years of routine Hepatitis B vaccination eradicated the disease even in the remote areas OneDay Health serves?
3. What are Nurses' Attitudes towards Healthcare Service Disparities between rural and urban areas, and their role in improving those disparities?
4. How does the quality of diagnosis and treatment vary between rural clinics (like OneDay Health centers) and towns?
5. How do clinicians in private clinics approach diagnosis and treatment of common complaints like headache and fever? Could this approach lead to undertreatment or overtreatment of important diseases and contribute to problems like antimicrobial resistance?

“We believe that many of our patients still visit drug shops or wait too long at home before coming to us, and understanding these pathways through rigorous research can help make OneDay Health centers the first option, rather than the second or third. We also believe that there may be overtreatment and poor-quality treatment in many private health centers, even in bigger towns. Research could help OneDay Health to show the benefits of strict treatment guidelines.”

“Research will also help us to understand how our nurses see themselves, what their intrinsic motivations are and how better to motivate nurses to work in rural areas. It could also guide us in comparing our treatment quality with clinics in town, and either prove that we can do as well or better, or show us that we need to put more work into improving our treatment quality.”

Peepul

Venture website: <https://www.peepulindia.org/>

100x Impact Accelerator theme of focus:

- Education

Venture research prompts:

1. What are the most adopted classroom-based strategies that can be identified through a Human-Centered-Design (HCD) based study for teachers in government schools in India?
2. What are the most effective methods of cascading teacher professional development for improving the quality of public education, at scale, in India?

“The results of an LSE research study focused on these areas would be extremely beneficial for our work across interventions as well as the ecosystem overall.”

Reap Benefit

Venture website: <https://www.reapbenefit.org/>

100x Impact Accelerator theme of focus:

- Democracy

Venture research prompts:

1. What is the impact of youth civic leaders who are creating solutions and tackling community issues on adaptation, resilience and mitigation capacity of communities who are at risk?
2. What is the most effective approach to measure the impact of hyperlocal youth leadership and problem solving in improving local governance?
3. How does problem solving of community civic and climate issue lead to mindset change and mental well-being in youth?

“We have enough anecdotal evidence to believe that young civic leaders are impacting their communities in a profound way. LSE research could help us prove our entire Theory of Change, which can catapult our scaling

strategy. This will open doors for us to approach state governments with confidence of long-term impact and go global with our solution.”

Recylink

Venture website: <https://recylink.com/>

100x Impact Accelerator theme of focus:

- Climate and Environment

Venture research prompts:

1. How to measure circularity in a company in an easy way
2. How to calculate if and when disposal is a better choice than recycling (or other form of valorisation treatment) based on geographical proximity and associated factors.

“Research can provide the data to help us indicate more accurately to companies the impact of their operations and decisions, influencing them to make better choices in the future”

RightWalk Foundation

Venture website: <https://www.rightwalk.org/>

100x Impact Accelerator theme of focus:

- Democracy

Venture research prompt:

1. What variant of UBI can bring about economic equity in India, considering India's population and economic inequality. This variant should deliver the most optimal result overall, with minimum negative externalities.
2. How participation in apprenticeship programmes in India influences the overall life outcomes of young individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds over long term, particularly in income enhancement, skills development, and social mobility.
3. What are the Cognitive and Non-cognitive impacts of the Right to Education Act in India on children from different economic

backgrounds, focusing specifically on Uttar Pradesh (distinct from many other locations where such studies have been conducted).

“Strong evidence resulting from LSE research can help us to advocate at the top government level in India and can play a crucial role in safeguarding the integrity and proper implementation of policies.”

Rocket Learning

Venture website: <https://www.rocketlearning.org/>

100x Impact Accelerator theme of focus:

- Education

Venture research prompt:

1. Determining the effectiveness of a low-cost intervention, less than \$1 per child annually, to enable quality early childhood education.

“Rocket Learning (RL) is dedicated to improving the learning of millions of children in their earliest years. We are primarily interested in conducting an RCT to ensure robust and reliable evidence on the causal relationship between RL's interventions and children's learning outcomes. By utilising a randomised design, we expect to gain invaluable insights into the effectiveness of our programs across various contexts and settings, which is crucial for expanding our reach throughout India. RCT has the potential to effectively control for confounding factors and isolate the true impact of our program, providing rigorous evidence that can inform decision-making and improve program implementation.

“The rigorous evidence derived from RCT will also help us to refine our interventions, informing the development of new strategies to address the diverse needs of children's learning effectively. Additionally, an RCT has the potential to help RL establish a robust evidence base for the broader ECE sector in India, and potentially the Global South. We hope this will contribute to the overall knowledge and understanding of effective ECE interventions and their impact on children's development.”

The School of Politics, Policy & Governance

Venture website: <https://thesppg.org/>

100x Impact Accelerator theme of focus:

- Democracy

Venture research prompts:

1. What are the most effective strategies for embedding young learners in organisations to strengthen political-economy capacity?
2. What is the right balance of theoretical and practical content for a programme that seeks to build a disruptive values-based political class on the African continent?
3. What are the mechanisms for building strong, effective endowment funds?
4. How do we frame SPPG's goal to effectively communicate our theory of change to audiences of interest?
5. How do we achieve rapid scale of reach and number, mindful of the trade-offs between breadth and depth?

“Research could help us to achieve our question zero of building a values-based leadership class for Africa’s development. The findings could also help to increase enrolment for SPPG, and to attract qualitative resources including partners, faculty, funders, and media attention.”

Taleemabad

Venture website: <https://taleemabad.com/>

100x Impact Accelerator themes of focus:

- Education
- Equitable Economies

Venture research prompts:

1. Per dollar spent, what are the most effective interventions in improving teaching quality/student outcomes for public schools in Pakistan?
2. How do we conceptualize and measure capacity for the implementation of new educational technologies in resource-constrained public and private school systems in Pakistan?

3. Between voice, text, image and video generation, what is the most effective deployment of AI that generates learning gains for students at scale in Pakistan?

“Research will help us to better understand which of the different interventions offered by Taleemabad most improve teaching quality, and consequently, student outcomes, to have the most cost-effective impact for private schools. The findings from this research can assist in creating a deeper focus on the most significant interventions. It will also help create greater buy-in from school owners and other relevant stakeholders for replication and implementation in their schools.

“Since Taleemabad works in both public and private schools, it is important that we can gain a deeper understanding of implementation in resource- constrained environments. The findings will also generally benefit the scaling of the solution to other resource-constrained areas. The research will allow us to discover a new approach in terms of implementation strategy and measuring its efficacy. Understanding the use of AI in resource-constrained settings will help Taleemabad to create a scalable strategy for providing access to quality education, which also addresses potential discrepancies that resource-constrained settings may face due to the existing digital divide.”

Tarjimly Inc

Venture website: <https://www.tarjimly.org/>

100x Impact Accelerator themes of focus:

- Refugees and Cohesion

Venture research prompts:

1. As we work to bridge the digital divide using Generative AI, what is the impact of our efforts on advancing translation and interpretation for low-resource languages (i.e. the impact of using high fidelity data to fine-tune LLMs for low-resource languages)?
2. What quality of interpretation and translation is necessary to have a positive impact? (e.g. what qualifications should translators/interpreters have?)
3. What universal standard should be used to define “professional translators”?

“LSE research findings could contribute to the broader learnings of the language access sector, and provide data that helps Tarjimly to improve its services to the populations it serves.”

Unlocked Labs

Venture website: <https://www.unlockedlabs.org/>

100x Impact Accelerator themes of focus:

- Education
- Equitable Economies

Venture research prompt:

1. Would effective use of "good time credit" laws have a significant impact on mass incarceration in the United States?

“Our theory is that widespread usage of our product would reduce prison populations through several mechanisms. One such mechanism is appropriate “good time credit” usage. If we are correct, and the numbers are correct, then usage of our product would have - in addition to the longer term and larger effect - an immediate impact on the correctional population. Specifically, it would facilitate the release of nearly 350,000 individuals from incarceration who have fulfilled their requirements but are still incarcerated simply because systems like ours do not exist. Demonstrating this immediate benefit would help propel widespread adoption of our product.”

Wysa

Venture website: <https://www.wysa.com/>

100x Impact Accelerator themes of focus:

- Happiness and Wellbeing
- Health and Social Care

Venture research prompts:

1. Loneliness and the Elderly: How effective are AI-chatbots in reducing loneliness among the elderly, and what specific features or interventions yield the most significant benefits?
2. Financial Insecurity: Can digital mental health tools provide effective support for individuals facing financial insecurity and stress, potentially altering financial decision-making behaviors and outcomes?
3. Universality of Empathy: To what extent should digital mental health solutions be tailored to address the unique mental health challenges faced by marginalized communities, including LGBTQ+ individuals, refugees, and racial minorities? Can AI-led conversational chatbots provide universal mental health care or is there a strong case for personalization at an identity-level?
4. Academic Performance: Per dollar spent, how does the integration of AI-driven mental health tools in educational settings affect / influence academic performance of students?

“We've achieved global scale with 6 million users in 90+ countries. As a venture, we're very interested to see what the future is to scale this to 60 million. Universal mental health has allowed us to scale wide, but is it time to go deep? Do we personalise our product solution to serve unique identities more deeply? Is the world becoming more polarised and therefore empathy is no longer universal? These questions are crucial for the sustainable future and relevance of our venture, and research that provides evidence to guide and support our next steps could be game-changing.”