



THE AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY

ccit

Critical Creative
Innovative Thinking

IMPACT REPORT 2022

ABOUT US

The Critical Creative Innovative Thinking forum known more popularly as CCIT, originated at the Aga Khan University (AKU) in Karachi, Pakistan, to create and nurture a culture of innovation through creativity, critical thinking, and entrepreneurship. It has evolved into a sector-agnostic hub for pre-ideation, ideation, and early-stage incubation, engaging organizations, and individuals from across the country for innovation in healthcare and beyond. As a unique innovation and incubation hub the CCIT forum is promoting a better future using 21st-century skills of critical, creative, innovative, intra/entrepreneurial thinking, and tools of design principles steeped in empathy.

Values: Safe space | Multidisciplinary | Sector agnostic | Empathy | Collaboration

CCIT has been dedicatedly working in the biomedical and healthcare space in Pakistan for a few years now. With the launch of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences (FAS) program, CCIT is poised to further demonstrate its relevance and nimbleness through sector agnostic inter-disciplinary programming. Our work overall, has focused on accomplishing some of our broad goals of incubation, systems innovation, research and communication, education, and last but not least outreach as showcased in this impact report.

WHAT WE DO

INCUBATION

As part of business incubation work, CCIT fostered a collaboration between AKU and Accelerate Prosperity-AKDN's global initiative in Central and South Asia that provides technical expertise and financial solutions to small and growing businesses. This led to the launch of the National Health Incubator Program (NHIP) in 2021, a first of its kind initiative that focused on providing customized business advisory and investments to healthcare related startups. This program aimed at guiding startups in terms of growth, commercialization, adoption of new technology and I|C|E (innovation, creativity and entrepreneurship) in the Pakistani health startup scene.

NATIONAL HEALTH INCUBATION PROGRAM STATS (2021-22)

62

Start-ups enrolled in the program

50%

Of the start-ups were led by women

47

MILLION PKR

Funding for 5 startups

42

Start-ups pitched to investors

WHAT WE DO

Our role as an early stage incubator working under AKU, has enabled us to incubate multiple startups. Following are showing promise.

- Rinder - A digital platform that aims to facilitate access to, and initiation and efficiency of interdisciplinary research.
- PFIN - A Pain-Free Invisible Needle which is a cheap, yet, effective way to curb trypanophobia (fear of needles) in children.
- EMCON - An application designed to improve connectivity between patients and hospitals for enhancing resource availability and utilization.
- Innov'D Board - Curated by our subject matter experts, this is a series of tools and short courses/workshops designed to gauge and enhance innovation at individual and organizational levels.
- Zalsa - An initiative promoting wellness and wellbeing through creative movement in the form of zumba and salsa.

SYSTEMS INNOVATION

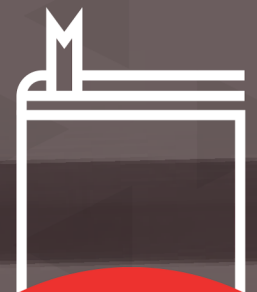
In our bid to innovate systems, in 2022 we conducted workshops on human centered design thinking for junior faculty at AKU. The workshops focused on equipping the faculty with vital problem-solving techniques entrenched in human centricity that would help them emerge as young leaders of AKU.



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**INNOVATION
FELLOWS**

In 3 Cohorts



1000

**MEDJACK
COPIES**

Printed

WHAT WE DO

RESEARCH & COMMUNICATION

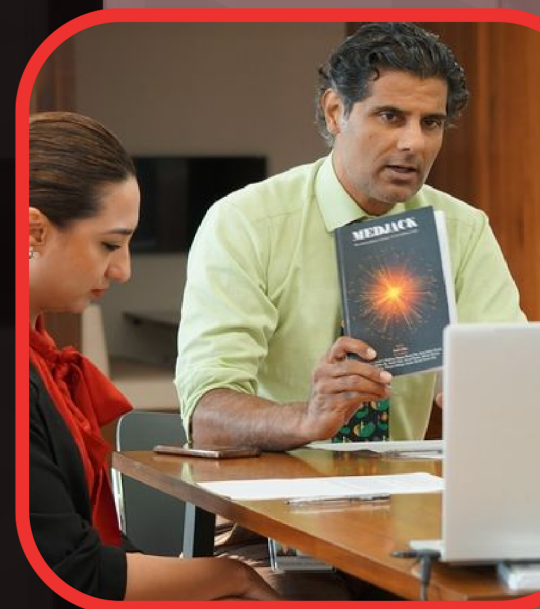
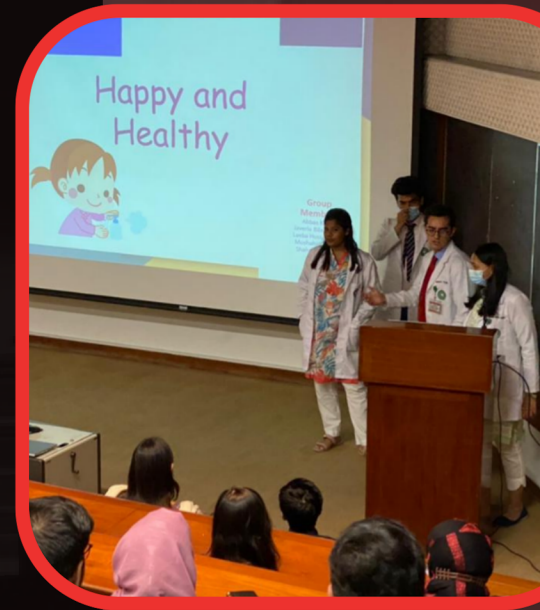
In 2021, CCIT successfully published AKU's first-ever e-book, "MEDJACK: an extraordinary journey of an ordinary hack" in collaboration with SEED Ventures, a social innovation and entrepreneurship company. We also submitted three innovation based grants and drafted four original research articles pertinent to I|C|E.

Ongoing work includes an innovative research study on a creative storytelling intervention gauging school children's perception and knowledge about vaccinations.

OUTREACH

In 2021, using Medjack as our conversation starter, we launched monthly webinars where we invite innovators from different walks of life to engage in discussions related to low cost I|C|E, as well as to delve into their personal innovation journeys.

In 2022, we launched the I|C|E'd Coffee series where we delve into lesser-explored topics through the I|C|E lens, such as Wu Wei (the power of inaction described in the ancient-yet-contemporary philosophy of Taoism), Ikigai (the joy of living - a Japanese philosophy), being child like, to name a few.



WHAT WE DO

OUR PATH IN EDUCATION

In 2020 CCIT launched the Innovation Fellowship, a unique one-year, fully funded program through which professionals from cross disciplinary backgrounds were recruited for training in modules of human-centered design thinking, I|C|E, narrative-medicine, 21st century leadership skills, public health and technology in the context of a healthcare setup operating in low-income resource settings.

We have led several Entrepreneurship Skills Development cohorts where participants are trained to transform their ideas to early stage solutions.

Over ten hackathons till date, the most recent one being part of AKU President's Challenge 2022 called the "Climate Solutions Hackathon".

"Off The Beaten Track" (OTBT), a course launched in collaboration with AKU Medical College UGME program; provided two major streams for medical students to explore innovation in healthcare - "Creative Innovation through Human Centricity" and "Entrepreneurial Innovation through Health Startups".

In 2022, we have hosted over 40 interactive, hybrid journal club presentations on scientific, innovative research articles at the Development Lab (D-Lab). The D-Lab is a custom built innovation hub at FAS; it acts as a melting pot for students and faculty of all disciplines, allowing cross pollination of ideas, development of the entrepreneurial spirit and ideation of innovative solutions addressing real world problems.



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TEAMS

In the last
Hackathon



10+

HACKATHONS

2023: ONWARDS & UPWARDS

Moving to the 10th floor of the University Center, CCIT expands its capacity to stimulate entrepreneurial initiatives across AKU. Nestled firmly within the new FAS areas, we will work closely with the faculty and staff from all disciplines to navigate their journeys of I|C|E. In 2023, we expect to launch novel endeavors related to I|C|E in tandem with the Innovation Fellowship V4.0. With 2022 being a year that has really put us in the spotlight, we are excited about our future!

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