* The names of research team members, including their title and institution.
* One to two paragraphs describing the research project and its goals.
* One paragraph describing how your research aligns with [Boston University’s Diversity Statement](https://www.bu.edu/diversity/about/diversity-statement/) and/or [BU 2030 Strategic Priorities](https://www.bu.edu/plan2020/strategic-priorities/) #3 – *Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion*, and #4 – *Community, Big Yet Small*.
* One paragraph describing how your research will advance knowledge or understanding of the year’s Learn More Series theme (AY 24-25: Indigenous Identities and Experiences). The Learn More Series specifically seeks to answer the following questions about the annual theme:
  + What is it?
  + How does it work?
  + Where does it manifest?
  + How do we interrupt it?
* One paragraph describing how the proposed research project seeks to disrupt or interrupt institutional and/or systemic oppression related to the annual theme and/or spur social change.
* A budget proposal that specifies the total amount requested (up to $5,000). Grant funds **may not be used to pay or provide stipends to Boston University faculty or staff members.** Payment to students (undergraduate or graduate) is permissible. Other funding sources or requested funding sources should be reported.
* If the applicant is a postdoc associate/fellow, a letter of support from the faculty supervisor must be submitted on departmental letterhead or through their BU email account. The faculty supervisor is asked to affirm that the applicant is able to conduct the proposed research project during the grant year. Please note that any grant funds are to be used at BU and will not be transferred to another institution.

I am writing this letter of support for Dr. Swapneel Mehta’s application to the Research Grant on Indigenous Identities & Experiences for the Sakhi chatbot field research project to advance women’s health outcomes among underserved communities in Bangladesh. The Sakhi chatbot is a unique, generative artificial intelligence (GenAI) system that supports low-resource languages through comprehensive monitoring and evaluation for conversations about menstrual hygiene among young women and girls. The team has won grants from MIT’s Priscilla King Grey IDEAS Social Innovation Challenge and spent 6 months developing this research tool in 2023, which now works on all consumer devices that support WhatsApp. This research project will constitute a field experiment in partnership with public health centers in Bangladesh and allow us to demonstrate that GenAI can be used to advance digital literacy and improve the public health outcomes of young girls and women in Bangladesh. It will be advised by Prof. Nina Mazar, who is an expert in behavioral science and brings in her network of collaborators at the World Bank’s behavioral insights unit.

This work is aligned with Dr. Mehta’s postdoctoral research goals investigating platform interventions to limit the spread of misleading information and improve access to accurate and verified information among vulnerable communities globally. He will remain a postdoctoral researcher with the Digital Business Institute at Questrom for the 2024-25 academic year allowing him to utilize this grant to advance our research, working with undergraduate students and supporting computing facilities required to deploy this research project.