Problem Code – DR715

Problem Statement - To develop in integrated and robust online platform for the researchers providing the information and relevant details about national/international research grants.

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Product/Idea

- **What is the problem you are trying to solve?**

  We are trying to solve the problem of reach by creating a robust online platform for the researchers where they can find information about national and international organizations providing research grants.

  Background: There are many Governmental and Non-Governmental sources of grants for undertaking research in Colleges and Universities. Lack of information in one platform about the institution granting funds, criteria of selection, norms and stipulations, time period, purpose for which grants are available, last date, eligibility criteria for all the grants available at International, National levels and local and subject-wise details, is inhibiting several potential researchers from availing the grants for undertaking research projects. Provision of such a platform would be useful in enabling healthy competition among researchers and also for the best utilization of funds for research programs.

  Summary: Research has been the backbone of an excellent education system and in order to add value to the research ecosystem of the country, there of need to have a robust platform available for the researchers wherein they can have the information available about the national/international grants available for them to carry out research activities more effectively.

  Objective: To develop a robust online platform for the researchers providing the information and relevant details about national/international research grants.

- **How does your idea address the problem?**

  The idea that drives this project is creating awareness and simplifying the task of finding grants and scholarships. Organizations providing monetary benefits do not find suitable candidates due to lack of knowledge and reach. On the other hand, people who are eager to discover new things and carry out research remain unaware about such organizations and as a result fail to make best use of such opportunities.

  The idea behind this software is that of a platform where both, the organizations as well as people can come together, find and help each other to the best of their interests.

- **Who are the target customers?**

  There will be two major classes of people who will be targeted through our platform - the people who have the will to carry out their research and want grants for the same and the organizations providing grants. As for the expansion of our audience, we will reach the target customers of India only and then the target customers will grow according to the expansion of our platform.

- **What makes your idea unique?**

  Platforms like this have always been in need since the emphasis on research in India has increased and as a result more innovative ways of bringing this idea into picture are required.

What makes our idea unique is the way we approach such a complex problem in a very simple way. Other ways of doing this would be by creating a machine learning model which will find organizations from various websites by a complex algorithm and then will do the same for people looking for such organizations.

Our idea makes it very simple by creating a platform where both the organizations and people can come and find their interests and thus without designing a complex artificially intelligent model, we can approach the problem in a very simple way.

- **Do you have a revenue generation model? If so, please do share.**

  Some of the ways which will be relevant for such a platform to generate revenue can be:

  - Advertisements - One of the obvious ways is to provide advertisements of similar organizations or people on the platform which will not deteriorate the experience of the user but will still be a very effective revenue generation source.
  - Books and newsletters - Our platform will have its own eBooks related to research and motivation to carry out research which will be provided at reasonable rates. We will also have our newsletters which will contain information about those people who were benefited by the platform and as a result will serve as a motivation to other people as well.

- **What are the geographies, do you think the idea would be suitable for?**

  The major problem in India is that people living in rural areas are not able to find good opportunities for research work around them. This platform will not only be suitable for urban or suburban areas where already people find such chances, it will be useful for these people as well due to the simple user interface which our website provides.

- **What are the risks associated with your idea and how can you mitigate it?**

  The major risks associated with such an idea are:
  - Data leakage: Since we will be collecting data from the people as well as the organizations, there is a high chance the data might leak because of unwanted sources.
  - Corruption of database: Hackers and unwanted people can access and alter the secured information in our databases.

- **Who are the stakeholders involved in bringing this idea/product/service to the market?**

  Stakeholders involved for this product are:

  - Developers: People who are involved in making this product.

Intellectual Property Assessment

- **Is your idea patentable or patented?**

  The idea itself may not be patentable but the various elements and components developed can definitely be patented in the future.

- **Is your idea built on existing work? If so, how is it different?**

  Yes, our idea closely resembles the UI and functioning of any other social media platform which works on the concept of post-and-feed. However, on these platforms people find other people in form of friends, recruiters etc. but on our platform interested students can find various grants and all the information related to it at one place.

Prototype/ Proof of Concept

- **What is the nature of the prototype/ proof of concept you would be able to submit?**

  Since our idea is that of a software, the nature of our prototype is a GitHub repository.

- **Have you completed pilot tests for your prototype/POC? If so please share.**

  No, we haven't done our pilot tests yet.

Supporting details

- **What regulatory requirements have to be met to bring the idea to life?**

  Some of the regulatory requirements which have to be met are:

  - Consumer and customer privacy & security
  - Copyright requirements

- **What is the volume of products/ amount of revenue you expect to make in the first year?**

  Since it will be our first year, it will be very difficult to make a profit out of it. The main functioning of our product will be based on the pre-revenue that we will have. Whatever the developers will have to offer in the first year of development will be our amount of revenue.