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NEXT STEP

The promising world of startups

Startup Dhaka along with U.S State Department and CRDF Global held an intensive 3-day bootcamp and demo day, to give startups get that winning edge they need to grow as an organization and as a team.

The GIST initiative builds entrepreneurial ecosystems in countries across the Middle East, Turkey, Asia and Africa by identifying, coaching, and funding the most promising technology entrepreneurs through its flagship competitions, startup acceleration services, online social media platform and interactive

mentorship programs.

Speakers attending the event were Jim Bagnola, President of Leadership Group International, Jim Chung, Executive Director of Entrepreneurship, George Washington University and Thor Ernstsson, Founder of Casual Corp and former Lead Architect, Zynga.

Buckets Engineer, CityScope, SobjiBazaar, LightCastle Partners, Bongo, Panacea and Singularity, were the seven finalists who made it to Demo Day, where they got pitch their startups to a panel of investors from abroad and Bangladesh.



Relationship advice from Jim Bagnola

10 BAD HABITS TO AVOID

1. Trigger-happy: We tend to say, "Let me tell you why that won't work"
2. Tell the world how smart we are: "I already knew that"
3. Make biting comments often behind people's backs
4. Throw tantrums and make angry rants
5. Stingy: don't want to share information
6. Stingy: don't want to recognise the contributions of others
7. Play favourites, whether it be with co-workers, subordinates, or bosses
8. Punish the messenger
9. Make excuses, blames others, and have a hard time saying "I'm sorry" in general
10. Pigheaded: Can you hear yourself saying "This is how we've always done it around here"



"Make the
B: Background
I: Interests
G: Goals
connection"

Keep these three things in mind and you won't be at a loss for words when meeting someone new.

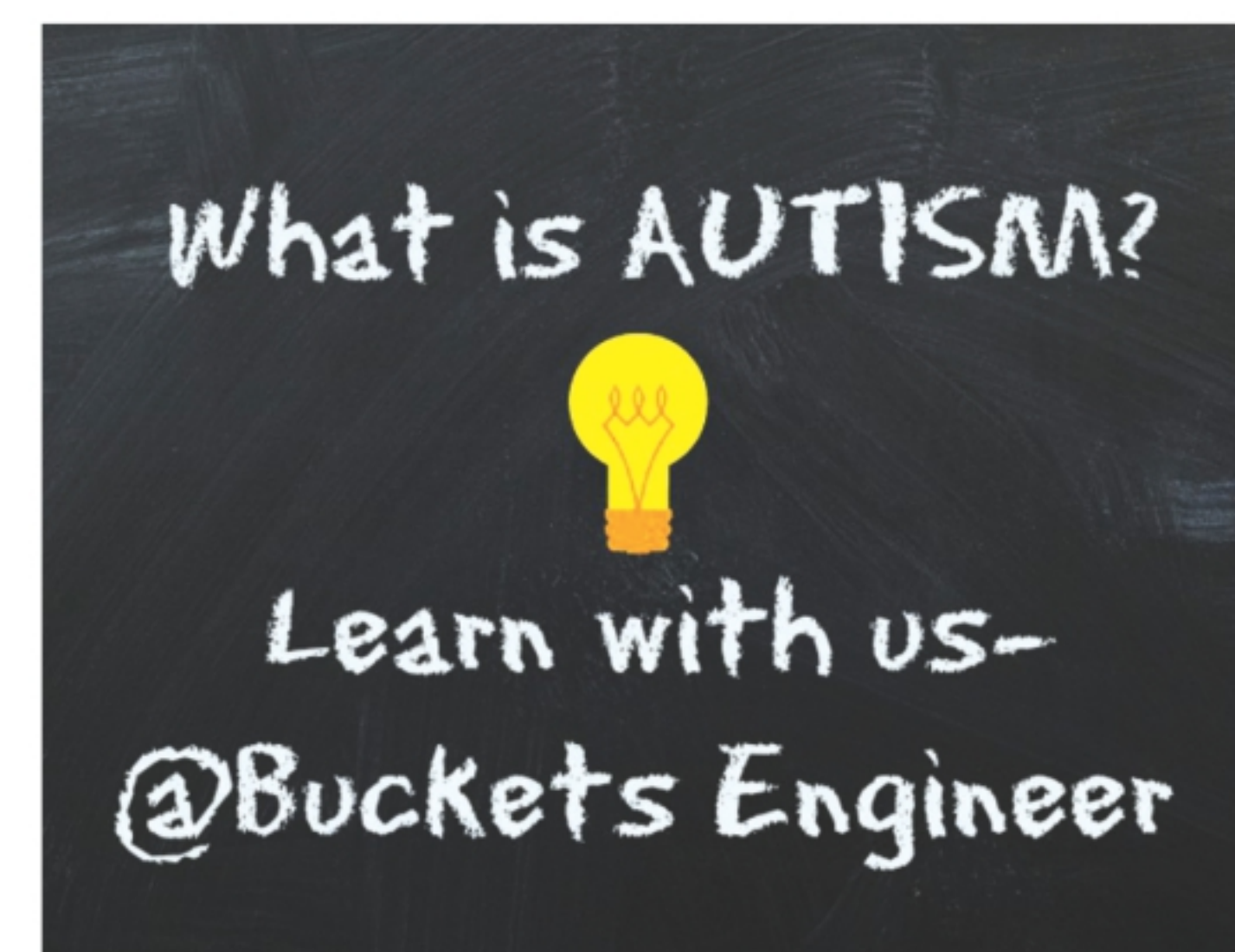
"Sometimes all you need is 20 seconds of courage"

LANGUAGE IS A CHOICE

Instead of...	Say...
Why does this always happen to me?	I am in control of my life.
He makes me so mad.	I control my own feelings.
There's nothing I can do.	Let's look at some alternatives.
Why did you do that?	What are the benefits of achieving that objective?
Why are you so far behind schedule?	What will it take to move closer to our objective?
I have to...	I chose to...

Note: Take heed of how you talk to yourself and others. Language should be empowering and enabling.

A tech hub for beautiful young minds



The winning idea

Buckets Engineer is a computer-aided platform that hosts apps designed to develop skills in autistic children. This tool will be used by therapists, parents and teachers, who will be provided a list of apps catering to a child's needs. All apps will follow a unified scoring system that track the child's progress. This tool will also be open to developers to create the actual apps.

Who's it for?

Their target market is the 1.5 million autistic children in Bangladesh. Potential clients are parents of the children and organizations geared towards the development of autism in Bangladesh. Eventually, they aim to integrate this project within standard schools throughout Bangladesh.

Money matters

Buckets Engineer is a subscription-based education platform. So besides subscription fees, it will generate revenue from app purchases, publications, and government funding.

By the next 6 months...

Buckets Engineer plans to have at least 2-3 complete applications ready for launch and evaluation in the school they currently work alongside. Their Seattle-based trainer, Knowledge for Autism, will train 10 teachers and 10 therapists around Dhaka with more equipped methodologies.

Promising beginnings

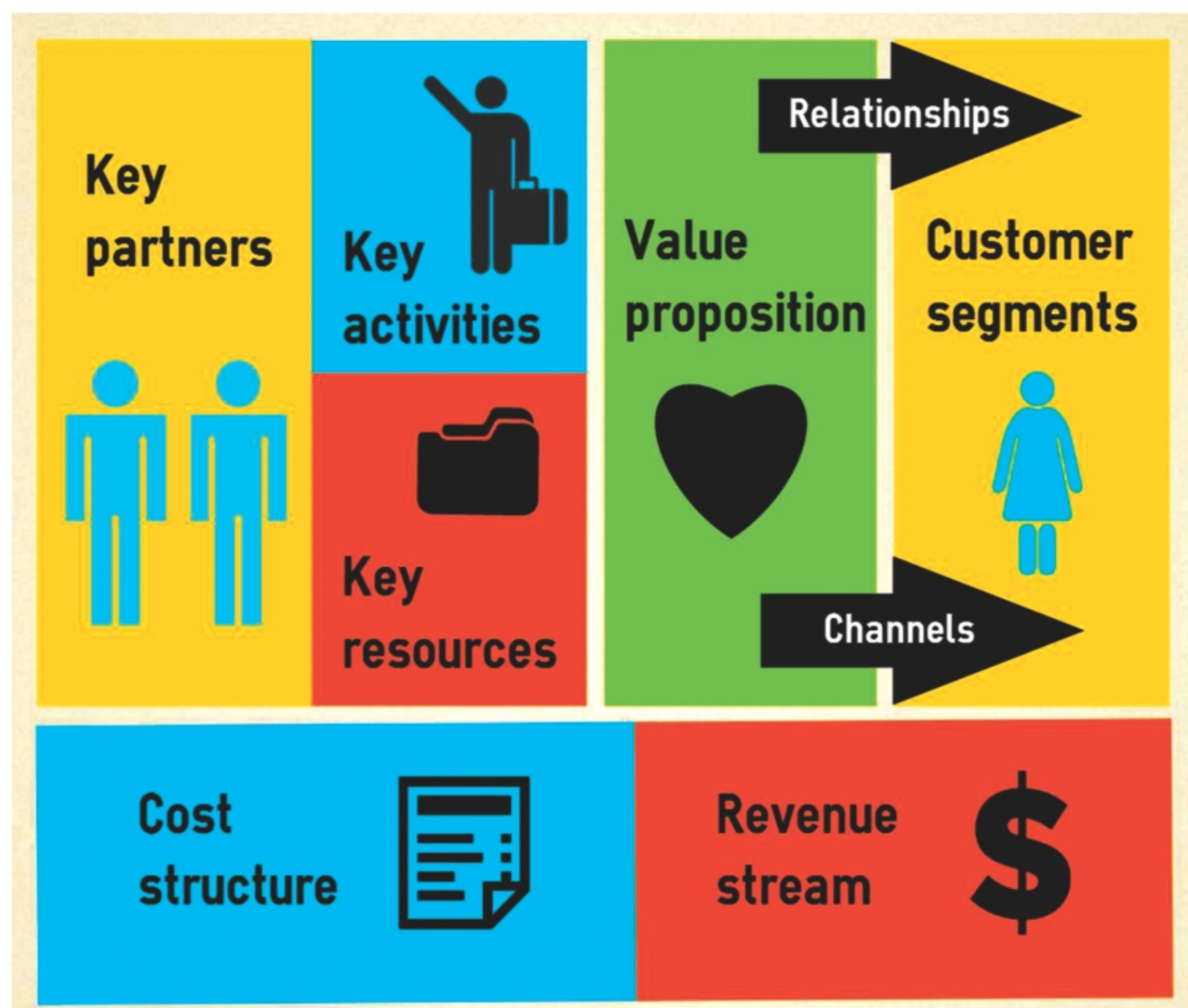
Buckets Engineer was entered in Dell's Education Innovation Challenge back in 2013. It was one of the top 50 semi-finalists out of 800 global projects worldwide. From there, Buckets got connected to Startup Dhaka.

The one thing that hurts

Commitment by others. There have been so many people who had been very promising in the beginning but did not follow through, which caused a lot of difficulties and delayed Buckets' plans. "You need to be able to balance the level of optimism with the importance of being realistic."

Where the magic happens

Buckets Engineer is imaginative when it comes to the workplace. "Every coffee shop is our ideating hub." They choose places where they can share, discuss and work on ideas. For the data collecting and analyzing phase, this is a perfect solution.



Your roadmap to a brilliant startup

What's a business model? How does it relate to a business plan? Or, better yet, business planning? They live together. They synchronize. Your business planning makes your business model happen. And your business plan is a regular step in your business planning. It isn't business plan vs. business model, the way some people seem to think. The business model is like a destination. The planning is how you're going to get there.

Startup tip: on funding

"Money is like gasoline during a road trip. You don't want to run out of gas on your trip, but you're not doing a tour of gas stations." - Tim O'Reilly, O'Reilly Media founder and CEO