Kush Kanodia: So I've got a condition called multiple epiphyseal dysplasia, that basically means that my joints have grown differently. In 2002 having both my hips replaced. And because I'm slightly smaller in stature they actually designed it, it was CAD/CAM, Computer Aided Design. I couldn't basically use hips off the shelf. And the truth is because of assistive technology, I can walk today. I've always been very passionate about disability and assistive technology.

And 10 years ago I used to be an investment banker and I kind of pivoted careers. So I used to work for Morgan Stanley. They spun us off to a separate entity called MSC, I took the redundancy, I traveled around the world, went to India, China around Europe and just saw all the inequality and poverty for myself. And then I just started to contemplate what's my purpose in life? Is it just accrue wealth? Or do I actually want to try to help people? And I thought I'm in a fortunate situation that I can try to help people. So I kind of pivoted careers from then.

So I set up a charity called Choice International that focuses on equality, diversity of mainly international development. The idea was to use some of the innovative ideas from the UK and around Europe, things like access to work and other kind of inclusive design philosophy and role models for disability, and basically help to replicate that in places like India and other places in the world. So I did that for three years and then basically I've gone on to help charities, social enterprises and nonprofits. So I kind of classify myself as a social entrepreneur. My portfolio career focuses on four main portfolios. One is technology and accessibility, another one is health and wellbeing. Another one is sports and inclusion. And the final one is employment and entrepreneurship. And disability is the common thread that goes through all of those portfolios.

The global disability innovation hub it was born out of the legacy of the London 2012 Paralympic games. My connection with that is I was a torchbearer for the Paralympic games in London 2012. So when I saw that there was an organization that was going to be part of the actual legacy of the games, and this focused on technology, innovation and disability that's what really resonated with me.

I think it's the world's first as in a global disability innovation hub. The idea is to build a movement to accelerate disability innovation. It's actually a collaboration of a number of different organizations. You have universities, cultural organizations, charities, all focusing on a common objective in relation to disability innovation. We originally got 10 million funding from DFID, and they've recently match funded the 10 million, so we've got 20 million that's been funded now from DFID. And the idea is, if you're looking at globally, it's estimated that maybe say by 2050 there'll be 2 billion people that will benefit from assistive technology, but they're predicting that maybe 90% of people won't have access.

The idea of the program is actually to use low tech assistive technology solutions to help the disabled people around the world. The collaboration from a number of global partners from the World Health Organization, the Clinton Health Initiative, UNICEF and some of the leading world's innovators and universities in relation to disability, NGOs and DPOs.

We've created Africa's first assistive technology accelerator program and we're receiving applications for that. We've received 19 potential ventures for a program called Innovate Now. These are going to be programs where the money that we've received from DFID will be invested in these kind of assistive tech solutions around Africa.

We've launched an MSC for disability design and innovation that started in September, and that's a collaboration of UC University and London college of fashion.

So the World Health Organization stated that the number one cause of disability is in relation to depression and mental health. So I'm also the governor of Chelsea Westminster hospital. But the truth is the NHS, the way the tariffs and [inaudible 00:05:15] structured, it's focused on ill health. So basically when a person gets ill, they go into hospital and they get treatment. The truth is, things like a proactive approach, like social prescribing, is still in its infancy. But I believe that we're going to have to focus more in society on a proactive approach to wellbeing.