

# UTSAV KHAREL

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## EDUCATION

Harvard Graduate School of Education | Master of Education in Learning Design, Innovation, and Technology | *May 2026 (Expected)*

- Core Coursework: Digital Governance and Leadership (HKS), Negotiating Across Differences (HKS), AI Literacy, Entrepreneurship Lab (MIT), and Adult Development.

Oxford Brookes University | B.A. (Hons) International Business Management (Upper Second-Class) | *Dec 2015*

- Major: International business consultancy, scenario-planning, and GTM

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

*Somali Response Innovation Lab (SomRIL) Lead | Kenya | Jan 2023 – Aug 2025*

- Venture Investment: Managed innovation funds and deployed \$3.8 million in catalytic capital to 13 high-impact ventures in Somalia in 2024.
- Fundraising & Growth: Scaled innovation funding by 10x by onboarding three new international donors to support venture acceleration.
- Scaling & Operations: Led 11 innovation pilots across Circular Economy, EdTech, and mHealth; successfully scaled EdTech solutions across multiple regional agencies.
- Global Impact: Developed a Design Thinking curriculum and scaled to 87 countries.

*Nepal Innovation Lab (NLab) Lead | Kathmandu | Mar 2021 – Jan 2023*

- Product Scaling: Upgraded SIKKA, a blockchain-based cash transfer platform in Southeast Asia.
- Ecosystem Building: Produced "Stories of Innovation" podcast and scaled KITAB Bazar, an online marketplace for children's educational materials, for private sector ownership.

*Co-founder & Senior Consultant | Visioneer Consultants | Nepal | Oct 2018 – Mar 2021*

- Technical Advisory: Provided retainership consultancy for the Nepal Government National Integrated Trade Strategy, Municipal Development Planning, and Startup Ecosystem Development.

*Strategy Specialist | World Vision International | Nepal | April 2016 – June 2018*

*Assistant Program Manager | National Citizen Service | United Kingdom | June 2016 – Sep 2016*

*Change, Leadership and Partners | London | Junior Consultant | Sept 2014 – May 2016*

- Managed Consumer Insights research for the largest pharmaceutical company in 11 countries

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- **Publications:** Book Chapter: Innovation and Entrepreneurship (Springer, 2022).
- **Speaking:** Keynote speaker at the DC3 Blockchain Conference (Geneva) on CBDCs; Startup Ecosystem Award (Costa Rica); and panelist at HNPW Geneva: Future of Work in East Africa.
- **Skills:** Design Thinking, LEGO Serious Play, Policy Analysis, Humanitarian Project Design, Public Speaking, AI Engineering, AI Ethics and Digital Audits
- **Languages:** English (Native), Nepali (Native), Kiswahili (Conversational), Somali (Conversational).