I-Stem Fellowship Class 2023

Akriti Singh

I am a journalist turned person in business. I've made it my mission as a change-maker to advance diversity and encourage constructive change in the world, especially in the field of STEM.

One of my biggest accomplishments was organizing the "Laal Dot" campaign for UNFPA, which promoted awareness of menstrual health issues. This campaign broke down taboos, promoted sustainability and gave people power, reaching thousands of people. Through the TransFund, I raised money for underprivileged groups. My participation in the Awadh Queer Pride celebration proved my commitment to LGBTQ+ rights, a subject close to my heart.

Inclusion, innovation, and awareness are at the core of my vision for the world and for myself. I want to keep standing out for underrepresented groups and utilizing my talents to raise their voices.

I dream of a future where everyone, regardless of background, can benefit from and contribute to the wonders of STEM, advancing society and making people's lives better.

Akshay Shete

I believe in transformative power of resilience and the pursuit of one's dreams against all odds. Born and raised in the serene landscapes of Purandar in Maharashtra, I began life as the child of hardworking farmers.

At age of eleven, fate intervened in the form of a life-altering accident. A collision with a massive truck caused leg injury and left me bedridden. The journey that followed was arduous, marked by surgeries, physical therapy, and unwavering family support. This ordeal, rather than extinguishing my dreams, ignited an unyielding determination within me. It taught me resilience and the indomitable spirit of the human heart, and it reinforced the belief that even in the darkest times, hope can prevail.

With renewed determination, I pursued higher education in Computer Engineering at VJTI, leaving behind my village for the bustling city of Mumbai. College life brought with it the excitement of coding, and I found immense satisfaction in bridging the gap between imagination and reality through programming. My work on Machine Learning algorithms, published in an IEEE journal, exemplified my passion and dedication. Post-graduation, I embarked on a journey in the corporate world, joining Deutsche Bank as a Software Engineer. My tenure there was marked by innovation and a thirst for learning. I developed a Big Data Platform, solved complex data challenges, and was recognised with the prestigious "Excellence Award".

However, my journey didn't end there. The desire to explore different facets of business led me to pursue an MBA at IIM Calcutta. I firmly believe in the power of diversity to drive innovation and progress.

I have strong belief that with resilience, hard work, and the right support, one can overcome any obstacle and contribute meaningfully to the world. My vision is a world where diversity and inclusion are celebrated, where individuals are empowered to pursue their dreams, regardless of their background or abilities.

Anish Verma

I am a third-year undergraduate studying mechanical engineering at IIT Delhi. Besides my academic endeavors, I'm a passionate musician and guitarist. In addition to this, I'm actively involved in my college's E-Cell, which inspired me to pursue a minor degree in entrepreneurship at IIT.

As an engineer with a keen interest in management, my dream job is in consultancy. Looking at the broader perspective, I'm genuinely excited about entrepreneurship and startups. I hope to contribute to the world through these domains once I've gained sufficient experience as a consultant.

Dhruv Agarwal

With a Bachelor's degree in commerce from Shri Ram College of Commerce, University of Delhi, I possess a sharp eye for understanding customer needs and identifying market trends. As an Associate Solutions Consultant at OneDirect, I had the opportunity to work with leading companies such as BIRA 91, Akbar Travels, and Shinhan Bank, where I developed customer feedback strategies and designed chatbots that delighted and engaged customers.

Beyond my professional experience, I am a firm believer in the power of entrepreneurship, community service, and personal development. I founded Innerhunt, a platform that aims to help primary school students explore their inner selves through cognitive evaluation, summer and winter schools, and strong community connections. Additionally, I built a private parking facility and an affordable accommodation for drivers in Kurseong, a hill station en route to Darjeeling, which instilled in me a deep understanding of business strategy and the importance of creating value for customers.

As the former secretary of the Rotaract Club, Rotary International, and Project Head at National Service Scheme, SRCC, I have undertaken various social activities and developed leadership and teamwork skills.

Through the aid of technology and a positive growth-oriented mindset, I have learned to overcome challenges and excel in various areas of my life. My resilience and determination to succeed are qualities that will undoubtedly add value to the dynamic and fast-paced environment at the I-Stem community.

Himanshu Jindal

Originally from the vibrant city of Kolkata, I am currently pursuing a B.Tech. in Mathematics and Computing at IIT Hyderabad. My inquisitive nature drives me to explore a diverse array of interests, from delving into the intricate world of finance to navigating the terrain of entrepreneurship. Quizzing is another passion that keeps me engaged, sharpens my mind, and fuels my constant desire to learn.

In terms of my career, I come from a software engineering background, fortified by my internship experience at Google, which deepened my love for technology. While I'm currently focused on software and finance for their unique opportunities, my fascination with the realms of business and management consulting remains unwavering.

Beyond my professional journey, I'm deeply committed to contributing to causes that enhance the quality of life for others. This commitment is exemplified by my active participation in college societies.

In a world bursting with potential, my mission is to bridge the gap between technology and finance, creating innovative solutions and leaving a meaningful mark on the world. I aspire to provide valuable insights and innovative solutions that empower businesses to thrive and prosper. My overarching goal is to be a versatile professional capable of adapting and excelling in a multitude of roles, all while making substantial contributions to the organizations I'm part of.

Kshitin Bhushan

An insightful and strategically-minded individual from Mountains with a strong work ethic, I possess proven expertise in Python, Linux, and network security. Recognized as a State-level project winner and recipient of the Srinivasa Ramanujan Yojna award for excellence in academics and innovation, my passion lies in becoming a cybersecurity expert. My vision is to be a vigilant guardian of the digital realm, committed to continually honing my technical skills, deepening my understanding of cyber threats, and staying ahead in the ever-evolving landscape of technology and security.

Muskan Sachan

My right leg has lymphedema, a disorder that causes severe swelling when I walk and run excessively or simply just keep my leg up against gravity, which was discovered when I was in the third grade. To avoid things getting worse, doctors advised rest and moderate exertion. I, however, refused to let my impairment define me or set boundaries on my goals. I've always made an effort to live my life as ordinarily as possible while steadfastly pursuing my passions.

Software development is my area of passion since it has the power to innovate and change people's lives and communities. I have a strong passion for this field.

Despite the difficulties, I've reached important milestones. Against all odds, I ran a 4-kilometer marathon. My contributions to our swimming squad were crucial in helping us win bronze and silver at the Inter-NIT competition. As vice-captain, I presently serve as the team's leader, demonstrating my dedication to both leadership and teamwork.

These successes highlight my steadfast dedication to conquering challenges, both in sports and in my unrelenting quest for greatness in software development. My goal is to achieve my dreams and have a significant impact on the software development industry.

I'm committed to have a positive impact on the world by overcoming personal obstacles as well. I'm steadfast in my quest to realize the idea that every person deserves the chance to succeed. My experience serves as a monument to the strength of resiliency and resolve, demonstrating that with unflinching resolution, we can overcome challenges and motivate good change.

Nirbhay Kumar

I'm currently pursuing a B.Tech. in Computer Science and Engineering at the renowned Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur. My journey to this point has been a series of challenges and triumphs, and I'm excited to see where it takes me next.

It all began when I was in the 5th grade. I had the opportunity to take the Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya selection test, and I was determined to succeed. I worked hard and managed to secure admission to JNV, a significant achievement in itself.

But I didn't stop there. In the 10th grade, I faced another crucial test, the Joint Dakshana Scholarship Test (JDST). I passed it and earned a spot at the Dakshana Foundation in Bangalore. This was a turning point for me as I focused all my efforts on preparing for the challenging JEE examination.

My relentless dedication paid off when I not only cleared the JEE Advance but also gained admission to the prestigious Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur, in the Computer Science department. It was a dream come true.

My short-term goal is to become a software engineer, and I'm passionate about the world of technology and innovation. But my aspirations go beyond that. I envision myself in leadership positions within a company, driving progress and making a positive impact on the world through my work.

My story is one of perseverance, ambition, and the pursuit of excellence. I hope it serves as an inspiration to others who are working hard to achieve their dreams, especially in the field of computer science and engineering. I'm excited about what the future holds and look forward to the challenges and successes that lie ahead.
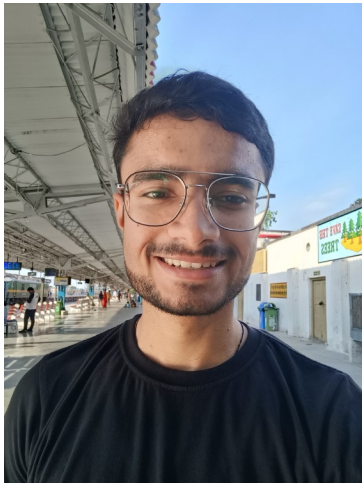
Pankaj Saini

I am a tech enthusiast with a fervent passion for innovation and social impact with past experience of leveraging my technical skills for impact.

My journey started at a prestigious engineering institution, where I honed my skills in computer science and engineering. With a foundation in cutting-edge technologies, I joined a tech company where I've actively contributed to developing software solutions that drive business growth.

Beyond my professional endeavors, my mission extends to making a positive difference in the world. I've channeled my skills into projects that matter. Whether it's working on grassroots innovations, or collaborating on solutions for the UN SDG Goals, I'm dedicated to utilizing technology for the greater good.

Priyansh Upadhyay

I am Priyansh Upadhyay, born into a humble family of four - my parents, a younger brother, and myself. My academic journey has been marked by excellence and a passion for knowledge. I achieved an outstanding 91.6% in my 10th-grade exams under the ICSE board and continued to shine with 87.5% in my 12th-grade exams under the ISC board. These achievements opened the doors to my admission at the esteemed National Institute of Technology Patna, where I pursued a degree in Computer Science and Engineering.

From a young age, I was driven by curiosity, especially in the realms of science and computers. I constantly sought to understand the "how" and "why" of things. My father instilled in me the belief that genius is 1% inspiration and 99% perspiration. With unwavering dedication and consistency, I've demonstrated that anything is possible.

Throughout my college journey, I've been a leader and active participant in both academic and extracurricular activities. I proudly serve as the Class Representative for the Computer Science department and hold leadership positions in various clubs, including the Drama Club, Coding Club, and Incubation Center. I was honored to be named "Mr. Fresher 2k20" at my college, showcasing my well-rounded excellence.

Beyond academics, I'm passionate about cinematic video editing and meme creation, outlets for my creativity. I also find inspiration in self-improvement books authored by visionaries worldwide and have a keen interest in photography.

I firmly believe that continuous learning across diverse domains is the key to exponential growth. With unwavering focus, consistency, trust in the Almighty, and my parents' blessings, I've proven that one can overcome life's challenges. My disability has never deterred me from pursuing my dreams, but always fueled my passion to create an impact in the world and convert dreams into reality.

Rahul Das

From a very young age, I faced significant health challenges due to being diagnosed with a major heart disease, Total Anomalous Pulmonary Venous Connection (TAPVC), at just three months old. The treatment required was both expensive and fraught with risk, posing considerable financial strain on my family. Despite these difficulties, thanks to the compassionate considerations of our medical team, my treatment was able to proceed in Bangalore. However, complications from part of the surgery resulted in the paralysis of my left diaphragm, leading to a progressive weakening of my left side. This experience, though challenging, has shaped my outlook on life positively, fueling my determination to excel academically and succeed in competitive examinations such as JEE (Main & Advance), WBJEE, and NEET. In addition, I have taken an active role in mentoring students in my community, particularly in preparation for their high school exams.

My life is marked by several notable achievements. Academically, I have excelled in my studies, earning high grades, completing challenging coursework, and receiving academic honors and scholarships. Beyond academics, I have engaged in advocacy and awareness efforts for disability rights, fostering understanding and inclusivity in educational settings and the wider community. My involvement in community service and volunteer work has positively impacted the lives of others, especially those with disabilities. On a personal level, I have achieved significant milestones in improving my physical fitness, emotional resilience, and self-confidence. Leadership roles in various student organizations and initiatives focused on disability rights and education have also been a significant part of my journey. Furthermore, I have pursued artistic and creative endeavors, showcasing my talents despite physical challenges, and have provided mentorship and support to other physically challenged students, offering them guidance and encouragement.

Looking to the future, my vision is to achieve educational excellence by pursuing advanced degrees and succeeding in fields such as science, technology, arts, or business. I aim to amplify my advocacy efforts for disability rights, striving to create a more inclusive and accessible society for individuals with disabilities. This includes enhancing accessibility in education and advocating for workplace inclusivity. My career goals are aligned with my passions and interests, and I intend to contribute to research and innovation in fields related to disability studies, assistive technology, or healthcare. Additionally, I aspire to make a global impact by collaborating with international organizations on disability issues and advocating

for equal rights and opportunities. Personal well-being remains a priority, as I continue to focus on self-care and self-improvement. Ultimately, I am committed to inspiring and serving as a role model for other physically challenged individuals, demonstrating that it is possible to overcome obstacles and achieve one's dreams.

Rahul Gajare

Embarking on a journey from the humble fields of Bhandi Shegaon, Maharashtra, where my parents toil as farmers, to the sprawling campus of Ashoka University, my journey has been nothing short of an intricate tapestry of dreams, ambition, and sheer perseverance. As a 3rd-year Computer Science student, I navigate through the enthralling worlds of software development, investment, and creative arts with a relentless spirit of innovation and an insatiable curiosity.

My proficiency in software development isn't merely an academic pursuit; it's a vehicle through which I channel my aspirations of entrepreneurship, specifically in cultivating AI-powered customer service solutions. Bridging technological prowess with empathetic, intuitive customer interactions, my work aims to redefine consumer experiences in the digital age.

My endeavors extend beyond technology. With an active investment presence in the Indian stock market, I strategically navigate the financial waters, fortifying my understanding of economic patterns and building a foundation to financially bolster my entrepreneurial ventures. My creative soul finds solace in songwriting and composing, activities that not only enrich my own life but also weave a harmonious tapestry that intertwines logical precision with boundless creativity.

Envisaging a future where technology propels inclusive growth and holistic development, my long-term vision transcends personal accomplishments. I am committed to establishing research labs dedicated to pioneering assistive technologies and medical treatments that profoundly enhance the lives of individuals with disabilities. This vision is not merely a charitable aspiration but a pursuit to eradicate barriers, fostering a world where every individual, regardless of their physical capabilities, can traverse the path of their dreams unbridled.

In me, you find not just a scholar or an aspiring entrepreneur but a young visionary who believes in harmonizing technology, economy, and humanity to carve a future that's not only prosperous but also inclusively empowering.
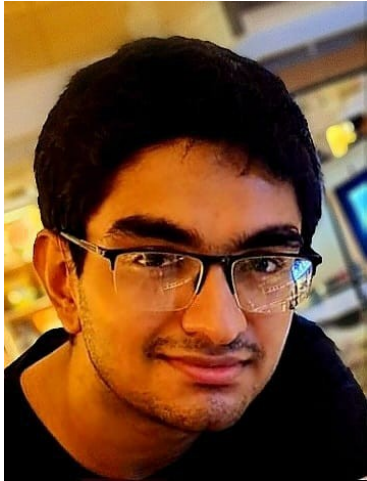
Ritik Aggarwal

I'm Ritik Aggarwal, a resident of Delhi. My academic journey includes a BCom Hons degree from Shri Ram College of Commerce, Delhi University. During my college tenure, I actively participated in the student union of SRCC, serving as a PR marketing and operations member. This role saw me successfully organising two major events-Business Conclave and Crossroad which is Asia's second-largest annual fest.

After graduation, I gained experience at the State Bank of India Cards as an Associate KYC. While working in a team, I tackled various tasks such as KYC renewals, add-on, PAN cases, and handled address changes and categorization them into major and minor changes. By following these processes, I contributed to a significant reduction in customer complaints.

Currently I am pursuing an MBA at IIM Raipur with major in Finance operation and marketing. In my Summer internship, I worked at the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) as a summer Trainee. I had the privilege of working with the Finance and Account department. My primary role involved developing financial models for two major clients, aiding them in making informed decisions and optimizing their investment strategies for investment returns. Additionally, I conducted sensitivity analyses that led to optimal portfolio decisions for the company. I also participated in JP morgan chase and co commercial banking where I prepared deal structure, 10 year financial model forecast and capitalization table. This experience has equipped me with a skill in finance, and I'm eager to apply these skills in my future professional pursuits.

Apart from my professional life, I'm a football player, and through this, I've deeply understand the value of teamwork. During my spare time, I play guitar and enjoy quality time socializing with my friends and family.

Roddur Majumdar

I am Roddur Majumdar, an undergraduate student pursuing B. Tech. in Computer Science and Engineering at IIT Kharagpur. I am also a NTS-2019 and KVPY-SA-2019 scholar. Growing up, I used to be captivated by the complexity that humans have had to grapple with to arrive at the present level of technological advancement. Much of this would not have been possible without the aid of the computer. Witnessing the rapid development of technology over my school years made me determined to contribute to innovations on the digital frontier. This drove me to take up computer science as my discipline of study.

Intrinsically motivated to solve challenging problems, I am willing to invest time and energy in coming up with viable solutions. I have participated in both technical and soft-skills based team projects and have successfully lead my team to excel at our assigned task on several occasions. Developing solutions to problems through coding is something I love doing. I also have a keen interest in the domain of data science and am exploring the impact of machine learning frameworks, especially deep learning frameworks like neural networks and their application in image recognition and natural language processing.

I am indebted to my supportive family and to my well-wishers, who have made my struggle and journey with my shortcomings a lot easier. In my leisure hours I read fiction and classics and indulge in birdwatching whenever I can. I am eager to apply my programming and analysis skills to contribute to human knowledge and strive towards making the world a better place for everyone.

Shreya Jain

My journey from the small town of Mandsaur, Madhya Pradesh, to the bustling campus of IIT Delhi is a testament to the power of determination and dreams.

Growing up in a place with limited resources and educational opportunities, I knew that if I wanted to make something of myself, I had to take matters into my own hands. From an early age, I was driven by an insatiable hunger for knowledge.

My academic pursuits were not without their challenges, but I never let these obstacles deter me. I kept pushing myself, excelling in my studies, and harnessing my passion for mathematics and computing. This unwavering commitment eventually led me to the doors of IIT Delhi, one of India's most renowned institutions.

The transition from the close-knit community of Mandsaur to the sprawling campus of IIT Delhi was a major shift, but it only served to sharpen my adaptability and determination. I embraced this new environment and have been thriving as a second-year student in the B.Tech. program in Mathematics and Computing.

My journey is a testament to the idea that where you come from does not determine where you can go. It's about the strength of character, hard work, and the unwavering belief in one's own abilities.

Shreya Nama

I've often encountered advice from my peers suggesting I should conceal my ADHD, fearing societal judgment. I find this puzzling, as I view my ADHD not as a hindrance, but as a source of empowerment. It is the driving force behind my enthusiasm, creativity, and determination. Of course, living with ADHD is not without its challenges. I must exert extra effort in many aspects of my life to align with neurotypical standards. For instance, to counteract short-term memory issues, I meticulously document everything. My high sensitivity to rejection is mitigated by surrounding myself with supportive people. To combat periods of low motivation, I engage exclusively in activities that deeply interest me, allowing for over-commitment, such as in the field of Marketing, particularly Brand Marketing. I am resolute in my ambition to become a Brand Manager, a role I anticipate embracing with zeal.

The stories of successful leaders with ADHD have been a significant source of inspiration for me. I aim to be a similar beacon of hope for future generations, demonstrating that despite the challenges, achieving one's aspirations is entirely feasible. Persistence is key. While it's disheartening to witness the myriad misconceptions surrounding ADHD, I am reassured by the thought that there are individuals who will understand. It is for them that I aspire to set an example, showing that despite the difficulties, understanding and success are attainable. This shared understanding amongst those we inspire is ultimately what matters most.

Suraj Kumawat

From the culturally rich city of Udaipur, Rajasthan to the hallowed halls of IIT Kanpur, where I am currently a senior-year undergraduate majoring in Electrical Engineering has been nothing short of a transformative experience. During my four years at IIT Kanpur, I've embraced a holistic approach to education. I didn't confine myself solely to academics but also ventured into various projects and extracurricular activities. I've had the privilege of contributing to a diverse range of initiatives, from participating in festival teams to working with cells aimed at fostering innovation and collaboration on campus. Additionally, I was an active member of the Students' Placement Office at IIT Kanpur, where I helped connect my peers with exciting career opportunities.

Beyond my academic realm, I have a profound love for swimming and cricket, which have not only kept me physically fit but have also taught me discipline and perseverance. Additionally, traveling and exploring new places with friends have been sources of immense joy and personal growth. These experiences have shaped me into a well-rounded individual who values teamwork, discipline, and the thrill of new adventures.

My vision for the world is one of inclusivity and progress. I aspire to leverage my technical education and diverse experiences to contribute to innovations that solve real-world problems and improve lives. I firmly believe in the power of collaboration and the potential for technology to drive positive change. As I embark on this journey as a fellow, I look forward to working with a like-minded community to make this vision a reality and create a brighter, more equitable future for all."

Vedanth S

With a rank of 1762 in JEE Mains and the successful clearance of JEE Advanced, I have performed exceedingly well in academics thus far. I am honored to serve as the lead Cybersecurity expert for my institute, IIT ISM Dhanbad, a role that has allowed me to apply my knowledge and contribute to the security of our digital infrastructure.

Beyond my technical pursuits, I find solace and creativity in the world of poetry and digital art. These passions have provided me with a unique perspective and a platform to express my ideas and emotions.

As I embark on this fellowship, my vision extends beyond personal growth. I aspire to be a catalyst for change, advocating for inclusive opportunities in the tech industry. By leveraging my skills in Cybersecurity and technical development, I aim to contribute to a more secure digital world. Ultimately, I envision a future where innovation and inclusivity go hand in hand, ensuring that no one is left behind in the pursuit of technological advancement.
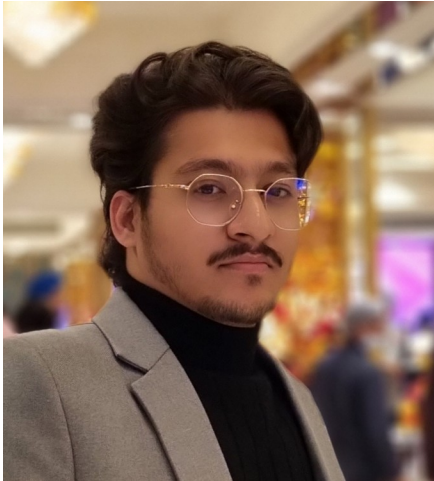
Vishal Kumar

I embarked on my academic journey at Vidyagyan, an institution under the Shiv Nadar Foundation, where I pursued my studies from grade 6 through to grade 12. Tragically, I faced the loss of my father at the tender age of 13, and later, my mother passed away when I was 18. Amidst these personal losses, I took on the responsibility of managing both my family and my studies single-handedly.

My academic pursuit led me to the prestigious Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IITB), where I enrolled in the Electrical Engineering Department for my Bachelor of Technology degree. During this time, the COVID-19 pandemic struck, bringing unprecedented challenges and uncertainties. It was a period where I seriously contemplated taking a gap year, but ultimately, I persevered and continued with my studies. My determination paid off, as I achieved a high Cumulative Performance Index (CPI) in my final semester.

Despite my academic achievements, I faced obstacles in securing inclusive opportunities during campus placements. However, my technical prowess eventually shone through, leading to my placement in a company. Unfortunately, I had to make the difficult decision to leave the company after just two weeks of employment.

+After a two-month hiatus, I joined the Piramal Foundation, an organization known for its impactful social initiatives. Here, I have been contributing as a Senior Program Leader, focusing on programs for children with special needs. This role not only aligns with my professional skills but also offers a platform to make a meaningful difference in the lives of these children.

Vishal Singh

I hail from Ludhiana, Punjab, and was born into a lower-middle-class family. Growing up, I harbored ambitious dreams of achieving something significant and making my parents proud. My parents, who work as tailors, shared my aspirations and made sacrifices to ensure I had access to a quality education. They enrolled me in one of the top schools in our state, disregarding financial constraints.

My dedication and hard work paid off, leading me to secure a place on the merit list during my 10th-grade exams and achieve an outstanding 98% in my 12th-grade exams. My dream was to become an engineer, and although I couldn't afford expensive coaching for the competitive IIT entrance exams, I decided to prepare on my own. I proudly became the first student from my school to clear the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) and even advanced to stage 2 of the National Talent Search Examination (NTSE).

Despite securing a seat at the prestigious IIITD (Indraprastha Institute of Information Technology, Delhi), the financial burden was still a challenge. Fortunately, my school rallied behind me, helping me raise the admission fees, and an NGO stepped in to cover my hostel mess fees.

Today, my journey continues as I strive to improve myself each day, aiming to secure a position in a reputable company that offers a decent salary. My vision for the future is not only to succeed personally but also to give back to my family, school, and the community that has supported me throughout my journey. I hope to inspire others from similar backgrounds to pursue their dreams and overcome obstacles, just as I have done. My story is a testament to the power of hard work, determination, and the unwavering support of loved ones and kind-hearted organizations.