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Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Statement

In an underprivileged environment, priorities are most focused on the hardship of "surviving." Education, excellence becomes luxury when "living" is the most challenging part. I know firsthand how social discrimination can set someone on a backfoot than someone privileged, despite having the same level of intelligence and potential. I have seen my parents working twice as hard as their peers since they belong to a religious minority. My parent could not even finish their full college degree for the sake of "living". I could cherish my dream due to my parents' sacrifices and hard works. It is now my time to give back to society.

DEI Philosophy and Experience

* Philosophy towards Diversity. Diversity in thoughts and ideas prohibit convergence into suboptimal solutions. Thus, I believe diversity is the single most crucial aspect of prosperity. I believe different cultures, backgrounds, ethnicities, and socioeconomic statuses contribute to differences in opinions and perspectives. A conglomeration of such diversity of perspectives in society ensures the highest quality of life and prosperous society. I always wanted to leave the world a better place than I was born in. I always wanted to give back more than what I received. My undergraduate school was in Dhaka - the capital city of Bangladesh, with close proximity to the industry, embassies, and all the facilities. I was fortunate enough to study in this setting. Other engineering schools in Bangladesh mainly were in rural areas, with little to no presence of industry there. To connect engineering students from all the engineering schools with all the facilities that the capital city presented, I co-founded the Engineering Students' Association of Bangladesh(ESAB), a non-profit organization. We connected students from all corners of Bangladesh with the industry and different study abroad programs (e.g., Fullbright, Commonwealth scholarship, Monbukagakusho Scholarship, etc.).

* Philosophy towards Equity and Inclusion. A society cannot grow by depriving a part of it of the chance of growth. Equity in opportunity is paramount for a prosperous society. Inclusion from all aspects, especially from historically underrepresented and marginalized portions of society, provides a chance for society to grow. Personally, I am committed to building and contributing to an inclusive society within my professional capacity. For instance, during my tenure as a lecturer at Ahsanullah University of Science and Technology, I have always tried to help students in need. I helped and mentored several minority female students to pursue higher education after their undergraduate degrees. My mentees are currently pursuing MS/Ph.D. in different prestigious places in Europe, USA, and Canada. Given the socio-cultural situation in my country, I realized that these students would've been married off to be housewives after their undergraduate degree if no one encouraged/guided them to pursue their dream. Furthermore, as the lead teaching assistant at Columbia University, I often spent extensive hours in/after my scheduled office hours and recitation sessions to help students in need. I tried my best to extend my help to *everyone* in the class who needed help. I encouraged everyone to ask for help, should they need it, and tried to guide students wherever appropriate. Since I don't know about any student's background, my assumption was that a student would ask for help if they really need it; thus, it is my duty to extend such within the bound of my responsibilities.

DEI commitment

I commit to accommodating, encouraging, and championing diverse, equitable, and inclusive work environments in my research group, class, and other professional sectors.