2nd August 2023

Letter of Appreciation

To Whom It May Concern

It gives me immense pleasure to acknowledge the sincerity and commitment Kaartik Issar has demonstrated throughout his engagement with our work for past seven months. Kaartik has worked with me as a Machine Learning Research Assistant in the Cell for National Centre for Literacy (CNCL) at NCERT from January-July 2023. As Professor and In-Charge of the Centre, I oversee research and analytical work on national literacy programme across several states, and I worked closely with him on data-intensive components of the programme.

Kaartik contributed extensively to analytical tasks involving large-scale demographic and assessment datasets across states. These extensive datasets spanned school records, requiring careful cleaning, validation, and methodological consistency. He independently developed preprocessing pipelines, addressed missing-data issues, and produced reliable summaries that informed our internal reviews. His work on learner segmentation using clustering approaches was particularly helpful in identifying learners' groups needing contextual instructional attention.

A notable piece of his work was an exploratory analysis on learners' retention and discontinuation. He used appropriate statistical techniques to identify periods of heightened dropout risk and explained his methodological decisions clearly in our discussions. He approached the analysis methodically and regularly sought feedback to ensure alignment with the project's goals.

Beyond the analytical tasks, Kaartik played an important role at the backend in our engagements with stakeholders. He demonstrated a consistent interest in interpreting data responsibly and was attentive to potential biases in demographic and assessment variables. This sensitivity to context added clarity and care to his contributions. He meticulously presented interim findings during internal review meetings communicating results in a clear, practitioner focused manner, and collaborated well across technical and educational teams.

Across my experience supervising many interns over the years, he stands out as one of the most promising undergraduate researchers I have worked with. His technical depth, self-directed work ethic, and reliable performance set him distinctly apart.

I extend my sincere appreciation for his remarkable contribution and unwavering professionalism. I am confident that he will continue to excel in all future endeavours. I wish him great success for a bright future.

Sincerely,

Usha Sharma
Professor, Department of Elementary Education
In-Charge, Cell for National Centre for Literacy
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