Diversity and Inclusion Statement
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I am committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion. I recognize that institutions must work continually to meet the needs of underrepresented minorities who have been historically overlooked in academia and research. I sincerely believe that a diversity of views is necessary for a vibrant academic community. Being a student and a mentor to junior researchers allows me to help underrepresented students succeed. I will continually endeavor to meet this goal.

As a project mentor during undergrad in *PES University*, I taught students from diverse backgrounds. I made sure to help students with varying needs by staying in the university after office hours and scheduling individual meetings when my mentees required it. I have worked to learn each individual's needs and adapt my mentoring style accordingly so that each person can achieve their goals at their own pace.

My experience as a researcher has been profoundly shaped by amazing women who mentored me - in undergrad and the industry. I am grateful to them and am currently pursuing ways to support them in creating an outreach program for students interested in research coming from a variety of backgrounds. Going forward, I am also eager to volunteer and attend conferences and sessions geared towards underrepresented communities like the *Grace Hopper Conference and Women* in *Machine Learning workshops*.

As a Research Fellow at *Microsoft Research*, I gained insights into the complexities and multi-layered nature of Diversity and Inclusion. At *Microsoft*, I pursue research ideas with collaborators coming from various backgrounds, countries, and continents. With the advent of virtual and social technological platforms, I am motivated to use them as opportunities to interact with a heterogeneous group of individuals at venues like reading groups. Through my experiences in the industry, I have learned to acknowledge diversity and inclusion with a multi-faceted and holistic approach.

I was born and raised in a small town in Udupi - a coastal district of the state of Karnataka, India. I belong to an average-sized community called Bunt. Although the community has urbanized and spread across the world in recent years, I have observed sections that remain underrepresented. I look forward to using my research as a platform to stay connected to this community and sharing the diverse ideas that originate from us with the rest of the world.

As a budding AI Researcher, I will continue to volunteer for affinity groups that serve to make machine learning welcoming to underrepresented groups. A core research lens I use to visualize solutions to problems is to build AI systems that work in more human-like ways. A branch of my research vision is to develop machine learning and AI approaches that are inspired by how people choose to represent their problems and how they solve them using formal and informal techniques. As a result of this effort, I hope to do inter-disciplinary work and publish fair, well reasoned, and ethical outcomes.