When I realised that computers is the foundation of innovations from self-driving cars to robot assisted surgeries, my interest in the field sparked. Its ubiquity made me realize that it plays a vital role in technological development. That was the very reason I chose to pursue Bachelor of Engineering in Computer Science and Engineering at Anna University, one of India’s highly ranked University for engineering and technology. I started exploring new things and gained practical knowledge when the curriculum exposed me to a diversity of courses within. I had a natural inclination towards the courses such as Design and Analysis of Algorithms, Data Structures, Computation, Principles of Programming Languages, Database Management Systems, Compiler Design. The propensity towards these subjects enabled me in excelling in them and securing a respectable CGPA becoming the top 10% in the department.

My sophomore year was full of learning and I underwent an internship cum project as backend developer under the guidance of Mr./Mrs.XXX. I was a part of a team which was responsible for design and development of a experimental data model using ETL tool which could pool in huge amount of data, apply the required transformation and store the data in target tables. This experience was helpful in correlating theoretical knowledge with actual software implementation.

During my junior year in college, I harnessed my belief in the need for education by volunteering in Make A Difference - an NGO which aims to provide the underprivileged to be able to realize equitable outcomes. I was an support volunteer who taught English on weekends to young adults from a poor background to help improve their competency in English, communication skills, problem solving skills and character skills that will help in long term in the first year. Later I became a mentor to the other teachers in addition to normal classes. As classes went on I realised that the difficulties faced by the students & volunteers were similar. For students it was difficulty in ability to understand, grammar, pronunciation or constructing simple to advanced sentences but only differed in terms of degree and for volunteers it was identifying the right learning plan for each student.

*‘Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire.' - William Butler Yeats*

As the saying goes, I knew what I wanted and it was the fire in me that made me find my real passion was not just learning concepts but applying them in real life scenario too. Me and few other volunteer recognised this pattern and tried structuring a class plan for the entire year so that the new volunteers would not be required to start from scratch again. They should be able to recognise the pattern and adapt their plans accordingly that would benefit the students to the maximum.

We built an application that would require each student to attempt a test that would record the students learning pattern so that likeminded or students with similar learning pattern could be grouped together that would benefit them as well as the volunteers in optimum usage of time to and also enable peer learning. Based on post production feedback and usage we realised that the application requires to be robust, scalable and adaptive which made us rethink on our technical skills. This is when I started exploring MOOC’s online and was blown away by the breadth and depth of the knowledge I inherited.

I believe that studying in a widely knowledgeable environment & set-up would enable me to leap beyond my boundaries and achieve the technical skills necessary to build an optimum system that can be applied not only to one centre in one NGO, but rather be applied to any institution that aims to improve the lives of the needy. I strongly feel that MS in XXX at your University would be the best place for me to transform my dreams into reality. It is known that the XXX program at your university is ranked among the top and I would gain tremendously by pursuing graduate studies from your university. It is my strong passion that drives me to apply here and it would be a great privilege if granted an opportunity to study at a highly reputed institution.