Sahiti Dharmavaram (she/her)

HCI + UI/UX Design & Research

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Portfolio • LinkedIn

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Undergraduate Research Assistant | Advisor: Prof. Raja M, VIT Vellore — Nov 2024 – Present
VIT Vellore, Tamil Nadu, India
- Exploring **AR/VR applications** in healthcare and patient care.
- Studying various methodologies in AR/VR implementation, analyzing best practices and innovative solutions for improved user experiences in **healthcare** contexts.

Undergraduate Research Assistant | Advisor: Prof. Dhruv Kumar, IIIT Delhi — Aug 2023 – Sep 2024
VIT Vellore, Tamil Nadu, India
- Analyzed and **compared various LLMs**, recommending the best fit for CS students in India based on HCI principles.
- Researched user needs and **pain points in UPI app usage** for Indian students.
- Redesigned PhonePe app features to prevent overspending, focusing on **user-centered design** and financial literacy.
- Conducted usability testing to validate the effectiveness of the redesigned app in promoting responsible spending.

UI/UX and Product Designing Intern | Jurident, ValsCo Technology (Remote) — Jan 2024 – Mar 2024
(Remote)
- **Collaborated in a team of 5** to design an integrated platform for a school, addressing the needs of students, staff, and parents.
- Focused on user engagement and streamlined communication features for the platform.
- Enhanced the Jurident app by **designing additional features** based on user feedback and requirements.

Undergraduate Research Assistant | Advisor: Prof. Somasundaram K, VIT — July 2023 – Apr 2024
VIT Vellore, Tamil Nadu, India
- Published in **IEEE AIIoT 2024**, presenting an XAI approach for heart disease prediction using the Random Forest algorithm with **96%** accuracy.
- Developed a **user-friendly interface** for medical practitioners to facilitate decision-making with LIME and SHAP visualisations.
- Focused on enhancing **model transparency and interpretability** to support clinical insights.

Full Stack Developer Intern | Happy Visitors E-Solutions Pvt ltd, Bangalore — Oct 2023 – Nov 2023
Bangalore, India
- **Designed and implemented** new master fields to streamline information management across multiple company websites.
- Collaborated with the web development team to add new pages, improving site navigation and content delivery, while ensuring seamless **integration with existing frameworks.**
- **Coded and deployed** additional features, enhancing website functionality and user experience, based on evolving business requirements and user feedback.

Undergraduate Research Assistant | Advisor: Prof. Jaishankar N, VIT Vellore — Feb 2022 – May 2022
VIT Vellore, Tamil Nadu, India
- Developed a Naive Bayes ML model for **heart disease prediction**, achieving a high accuracy of **99%.**
- Focused on **feature selection** and **optimisation** to enhance the model's predictive performance.

PROJECTS

KitchenCraft An all-in-one recipe app [Link] — Dec 2023 - Sep 2024
Project guide: Pavan Kusuma (Sr. UX Designer, Microsoft, Bangalore)

- Designed an all-in-one recipe app featuring a voice assistant for seamless recipe editing, saving, and exploration.
- Conducted extensive **secondary user research**, analyzing trends and user needs to inform app features and enhance community engagement.
- Also with a **community-driven** platform, fostering engagement among both beginners and professional cooks.

TextHelp Natural Language Processing App [Code] — Aug 2023 - Oct 2023
- Created a **Streamlit app** utilizing **BERT** for audio-to-text conversion, summarization, sentiment analysis, and tokenization.
- Designed a **user-friendly interface** with **speech-to-text capabilities**, addressing the needs of users with visual impairments or motor disabilities.

CERTIFICATIONS

Google UX Design Certificate (7 courses) — Oct 2023- Dec 2023
Coursera online course

BP Digital Design & UX Job Simulation — Dec 2023
Forage Virtual Internship

Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning workshop — Apr 2023
BITS Pilani, Hyderabad (In association with E-Cell)

EDUCATION

Vellore Institute of Technology, Vellore
Sep 2021 - Present | CGPA: 9.20/10

Bachelor of Technology, **Computer Science and Engineering**
Member of IQAC (Internal Quality Assurance Cell) and Creativity Club

Relevant Courses:
• Web Technologies • Software Testing • Problem Solving, Object Oriented Programming, Analysis & Design • Database Management Systems • Software Project Management • Big Data Analytics

SKILLS

Design
• UX/UI Design • Design Systems • Design Thinking • Accessible Design • Wireframing • Prototyping • Interaction Design • Visual Design • Information Architecture

Research
• User Research • Benchmarking Study • Qualitative & Quantitative Research • Heuristic Evaluation • Storyboarding • Competitive Analysis • Surveys • Personas • Journey Mapping • Contextual Inquiry • User Interviews • Usability Testing • A/B Testing Management • Data Analysis • Market Research • Product Strategy

Management
• Brand Management • Statistics • Presentation • Leadership • Communication & Collaboration

Tools
• Figma • Sketch • Adobe XD • Microsoft Office 365 • Tableau • UserTesting • HTML5 • CSS • C/C++ • Java • Python • SQL • JIRA

PUBLICATIONS

Application of Explainable Artificial Intelligence (XAI) in the Prediction of Heart Disease [Link]
Published in AIIoT 2024 (IEEE)

From Cash to Cashless: UPI's Impact on Spending Behavior Among Indian Users and Prototyping Financially Responsible Interfaces
(Pending status)

A Comparative Study for Elevating Undergraduate Computer Science Education in India
(Pending status)