Please tell us why you would like to attend the Grace Hopper Celebration and how you plan to share your experience with others (including your school community) after attending the celebration. This is your opportunity to share any information you believe will have an impact on being selected as an AnitaB.org GHC Scholar. We strongly encourage you to share any experiences with overcoming unique, personally important, and/or challenging factors in your background.

Grace Hopper Celebration is the largest gathering of all Women in technological spheres. As a woman educator in computing field, I have come to experience first hand the handicaps that girls face in computing education.

I am a woman educationalist in the computing arena for the last 20 years. I feel that women in computing do not exhibit the confidence to come forward and take charge. Right from college where girls do not raise their hands to ask questions

V1

I have been a woman educationalist in the computing arena for the last 20 years. I come from a very small village in India where education is not considered important. But my parents were educated and my mother was determined for a good future for me too. I managed to get into an undergraduate course in Computer Science in the nearby city of Cochin. In a class of 40 students, there were 4 girls and 36 boys. The boys bonded with each other and learned from each other. The girls shared their limited knowledge with each other, but any simple doubts that we had were mocked at by the boys. I remember the Professor who taught us programming sending me out of class because I could not answer a question. It was traumatizing.

But I was determined to learn. I bought a copy of “The C Programming Language” by Kernighan and Ritchie, and taught myself programming. There has been no looking back. I worked for 2 years in the Indusry and now for the last 20 years in the academia. Now I am a PhD in Computer Science.

As an educationalist, I feel, girls still are at a disadvantage in the computing field. They do not exhibit the confidence to raise their hands and ask questions or to come forward and take charge. Girls need a bit of handholding for them to flower in Computing field. As the HoD of CS in my Institution, I have been instrumental in organizing workshops and hackathons exclusively for girls especially in working with hardware and installing OS. By attending the GHC, I would like to meet other women in Tech who through their activities have contributed in encouraging girls to be part of the Tech field and to learn from them.

V2

I have been a woman educationalist in computing for the last 20 years. I come from a very small village in India where education is not important. But my parents were educated and my mother was determined for a good future for me too. I managed to get into an undergraduate course in Computer Science. In the class of 40 students, there were 4 girls. The boys bonded with each other and learned from each other. The girls were treated as outsiders and lacked the opportunities of peer-learning. I remember the Professor who taught us programming sending me out of class because I could not answer a question. It was traumatizing.

But I was determined to learn. I bought a copy of “The C Programming Language” by Kernighan and Ritchie, and taught myself programming. There has been no looking back. Now I am a PhD in Computer Science.

As an educationalist, I still find that girls need handholding for them to flower in Computing field. I have organized workshops and hackathons exclusively for girls. By attending the GHC, I would like to meet other women who have done the same and learn from them.