

**To Whom It May Concern:**

It is my honor to recommend Akul Mehra for I worked with Akul in the capacity of his manager (as a Team Lead for Research and Analysis team) during his internship at SocialCops.

At SocialCops, Akul has demonstrated eagerness to work and learn more about data science with regards to government data and specifically how public data in India can be used for better decision making. During his time at SocialCops, Akul largely spearheaded Research and Analysis team's efforts in collecting public data sets from archaic government websites as well as unstructured sources of data such as websites, news feeds, etc. He supported the team with his technical skills in building and maintaining web scraping algorithms. Akul, also created internal tutorials, and took a workshop for his colleagues to ensure that he passes on the learnings that he had during his internship time.

Apart from data ingestion from unstructured sources, Akul eagerly took on data processing for a few public datasets and he cleaned, structured, and did preliminary analysis on these public datasets. For example, Akul worked on curating a district profile dataset for India using multiple public datasets, that included indicators for various sectors: health, education, economics, etc. During his time, he learnt the basics of data cleaning, structuring, and created a well-structured district level dataset for India. Then, he visualized the dataset on our internal visualization tool, Visualize. Lastly, he supported our GIS team to help organize their data: shape files, GIS files, etc.

Apart from fulfilling his regular duties, Akul was often found engaged in running data collection hacks for our Talent, Sales, and Marketing teams. He was often the go-to person whenever someone wanted a curated list off the internet in seconds.

In his short stint at SocialCops, Akul has demonstrated sheer commitment, eagerness to learn, compassion for his colleagues, and became an integral technical member of the Research and Analysis team, owning up the web data collection work stream for the team. His hardwork, curiosity, action-oriented attitude will certainly make him a valuable member of any academic program.

I encourage you to look favorably upon his application.

Sincerely,



Richa Verma

Resident Entrepreneur | Team Lead, Research & Analysis Team

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