**Reflections 2**

**Second, we would like to understand what you got out of the collaborative activities in this assignment. You should write a reflection statement that highlights one or two specific things that you learned from answering the research question posed in this assignment. How did the possibility of collaboration on this Part help, hinder, or change your thinking about the problem? Your reflection statement should include specific attributions for any/all code, methods and techniques that you reused. Your reflection statement should be no more than two written pages.**

This collaborative assignment was a good exercise to spark intellectual discussions among the peers. The steps till data collection was easy and was more an individual task but the research questions presented in the analysis part i.e step 2 required some discussion as I felt the research questions were tough to answer with limited data and required assumptions to be made.

Many students approached a research question differently while trying to answer questions like how can the data be visualized effectively?What sub-questions do we need to answer in order to answer the primary question?

We have a cohort of students from different backgrounds and some students have experience in the data cleaning process while some may have more domain knowledge. The discussion with my peers helped me to understand the question easily and what needs to be done. For example- In order to get the derivative of a function students discussed what’s the right way to get the derivative of a function in python and Can the technique be applied to our problem ?

I had a fruitful discussion with Aishwarya Singh to understand how to get the change points using python packages and if we can derive the change points mathematically without using any packages. I had a discussion with Ananya about the calculation of infection rate and if it is right to use constant population to derive the infection rate.

Even in the absence of all the necessary data required to answer a few research questions, such questions can be answered using valid assumptions and also the domain knowledge is equally important to understand the questions and how to answer them. A richer data is surely good to have but its absence should not hinder the analysis process and a preliminary analysis can still be conducted with necessary assumptions. The discussions were very healthy and helped in structuring my thought process and the discussions are surely helpful in answering open-ended questions. Also, while answering the research questions, the analysis could be extended with more assumptions and collecting more data from other sources. But given the time availability, I learned what to prioritize and how to focus on answering the important questions first and then scope out given we still have some time left. There were some research questions which had conflicting views but I wouldn’t say it obstructed the process, rather it was very enriching and it helped me to understand the scope of the problem and how far I can think.