Two years ago I took an one-way flight to the United States (U.S.). Unlike the people I left behind, I was coming to a new country filled with educational opportunities my homeland could never provide. I had already taken a decision to not be limited by my place of birth.

Since then it has been an amazing journey for me in the United States. Back in my country, I used to see people not using technologically advanced devices or systems. People over there seemed to be reluctant to learn something new – even though it might have the potential to improve their lives. This was more common with the old people and the aging population. After coming to U.S., I realized that there are people like this in every city, in every country and in every part of the world. Their population is increasing everyday and it is the need of the hour for us to bridge the gap between them and technologically advanced devices so that they can learn how to use them.

Motivated by these research questions, I started doing my research in these fields and graduated with a masters a few months back – with the most number of academic papers in the history of my department! During the course of my masters, I published 12 papers – 8 conference papers, 2 journal papers and 2 book chapters (<http://homepages.uc.edu/~thakurna/>).

Even though I have been fairly successful at academic research but I want my research-based innovations and ideas to not only remain confined as academic papers. I want to help people out there, by extending my works and designing solutions that impact their lives and solve real-world problems. I want to create a difference in this world by making more people accept and begin to adapt towards using technology on a daily basis. One of the initial steps towards achieving this is to bridge the gap between technology and its users so that the former is adapted by the latter and this is what I want to achieve at a universal level for all technologies and systems. My objective is to make every technology and system universally usable irrespective of the user diversity.

This can be possible only by an amalgamation of technical, entrepreneurial and leadership skills – which I am sure I posses and I will be able to improve on by being a design fellow in the KP Fellows program.